

# House Bill 472 is not a vendetta

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Your editorial of May 25, "Change in NC public notices is a vendetta" is grossly inaccurate. It certainly falls far short of your usual editorial standards.

This piece erroneously states that my support of electronic notice legislation is due solely to a grudge with my local newspaper. Nothing can be further from the truth. This proposed legislation has been in effect for my own municipality of Apex for at least three years and therefore has no impact at all on whether public notices are published in The Apex Herald. Further, I enjoy a cordial relationship with my local paper. They are a fine paper and uphold the highest standards of journalism.

House Bill 472 would allow local governments to provide legal notice to citizens by using more efficient and cost effective means than being required to pay for expensive advertising in newspapers. Towns and counties would be allowed to post legal notices on websites and other electronic means and to distribute printed copies to libraries and other public places.

The issue addressed by this legislation is the wise and careful use of taxpayers' money by local governments. Local taxpayers would save at least \$6 million annually with the adoption of electronic notice legislation. That's \$6 million that would be used for essential services provided to citizens rather than newspaper advertising.

There is no debate that the public should be provided notice for public hearings and other activities of their local governments. However, it is no secret that fewer people are reading print media and the increase of people desiring to obtain their news electronically is rising exponentially. Our legislation even provides personal notice by mail to those citizens making such request.

Clearly many newspapers are opposing our electronic notice legislation due to the potential loss of revenue. However, it is time to permit local governments to embrace the substantial savings of their taxpayers' money and efficiency of technology to communicate with their citizens. Your editorial paid a disservice to your readers by labeling this effort as a personal vendetta rather than a self-serving political advertisement demanding the continued payment of the public's money to your business enterprise.

Rep. Paul Stam

Raleigh