**Contact:**

GOVERNOR ROY COOPER

Jenni Owen

Policy Director, NC Office of the Governor

20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301
Phone:  (919) 814-2000 (not Ms. Owen's direct line)

Fax: (919) 733-2120

Email:   Jenni.Owen@nc.gov

Dear Governor Cooper,

I’m writing to ask you to take action concerning the “torture taxi” flights that have started and ended at our state’s public airports.

Please respond to the North Carolina Commission of Inquiry on Torture (NCCIT) report entitled “*Torture Flights: North Carolina’s Role in the CIA Rendition and Torture Program*” (www.nctorturereport.org).

The NCCIT looked into the CIA’s use of airports in Smithfield and Kinston to facilitate torture. The inquiry revealed that Aero Contractors, a CIA affiliated company, transported at least 49 people for torture, many of them innocent of any terrorist ties. Aero Contractors is headquartered at the Johnston County Airport in Smithfield. It also used the state-run Global TransPark in Kinston for “torture taxi” flights.

The 48 men and one women who were forcibly kidnapped and transported to torture sites on Aero’s jets were subjected to gruesome torture. Some torture was carried out by the CIA directly, some by foreign proxy nations. Those who are still alive continue to suffer serious psychological and physical damage.

North Carolina should be better than that. Supporting torture has left a stain on our reputation, and hurt our national security. I urge you to read the report, and take initiative to get an investigation launched. If law enforcement officials in Johnston County will not do anything, then seek the necessary collaboration elsewhere to deploy the State Bureau of Investigation.

Torture is always wrong. We should acknowledge what has happened and take steps for transparency and accountability. Otherwise, North Carolina may continue to play a role in torture.

Hold private contractors such as Aero Contractors accountable. Enforce state, federal, and international law. Stop hosting Aero at our public airports. Don’t let North Carolina be home to “torture taxis.”

Thank you,