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From: Locke Bell, DA [<mailto:da27a@earthlink.net>]

Sent: Monday, June 29, 2009 01:35 PM

To: Sen. David Hoyle; Rep. Bill Current; Rep. Wil Neumann; Rep. Tim Moore; Rep. Pearl Burris-Floyd

Subject: Racial Justice Act

Folks:

The Racial Justice Act will cause massive backlog and delay in Gaston County if it passes. It will, in fact, make seeking the death penalty almost impossible. Of all the defendants from Gaston County on death row only one is black. All the rest are white men. I have two pending capital cases--both involve white defendants. Under the law as it is written this would be strong evidence of discrimination against whites by my office. The law would force me to spend hundred's of hours out of court and days in court to show that I am not seeking to execute whites for discriminatory reasons. This may sound absurd, but it is true. I would have to get the facts surrounding all those men now on death row (some 16 years old) and accumulate the statistics for all the black men Mike Lands and I chose not to prosecute capitally. One strange irony of the law is that in order to prosecute more white men capitally I would first have to seek execution of more black men to balance things out. Please vote against this bill.

Thanks,

Locke