NC Chamber

# How We're Working for You

AGRIBUSINESS

WORKING FOR NORTH CAROLINA'S #1 INDUSTRY

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WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOUR BUSINESS?

North Carolina's agriculture and agribusiness industry is our state's greatest economic engine, contributing $92 billion annually to the state's economy. At the same time, your industry has been subject to an uncertain trade environment, talent supply shortages, attacks from out-of-state personal injury attorneys, and losses from historic storms – all while battling the challenges of COVID-19 to keep American families supplied with the essentials for life.

While some may take your work for granted, the NC Chamber is committed to serving North Carolina's agriculture community. Whether you're interested in making new connections with fellow leaders, growing your business' brand or having a voice in shaping North Carolina's future, the NC Chamber can help you achieve your business' goals. By convening the next generation of agribusiness leaders and alleviating the industry's workforce, legal and trade challenges, the NC Chamber tackles any obstacles that stand in your way.

As North Carolina's voice for business, the NC Chamber is here to amplify yours and ensure that North Carolina's agriculture and agribusiness industry remains a leader.

## Recent Legislation

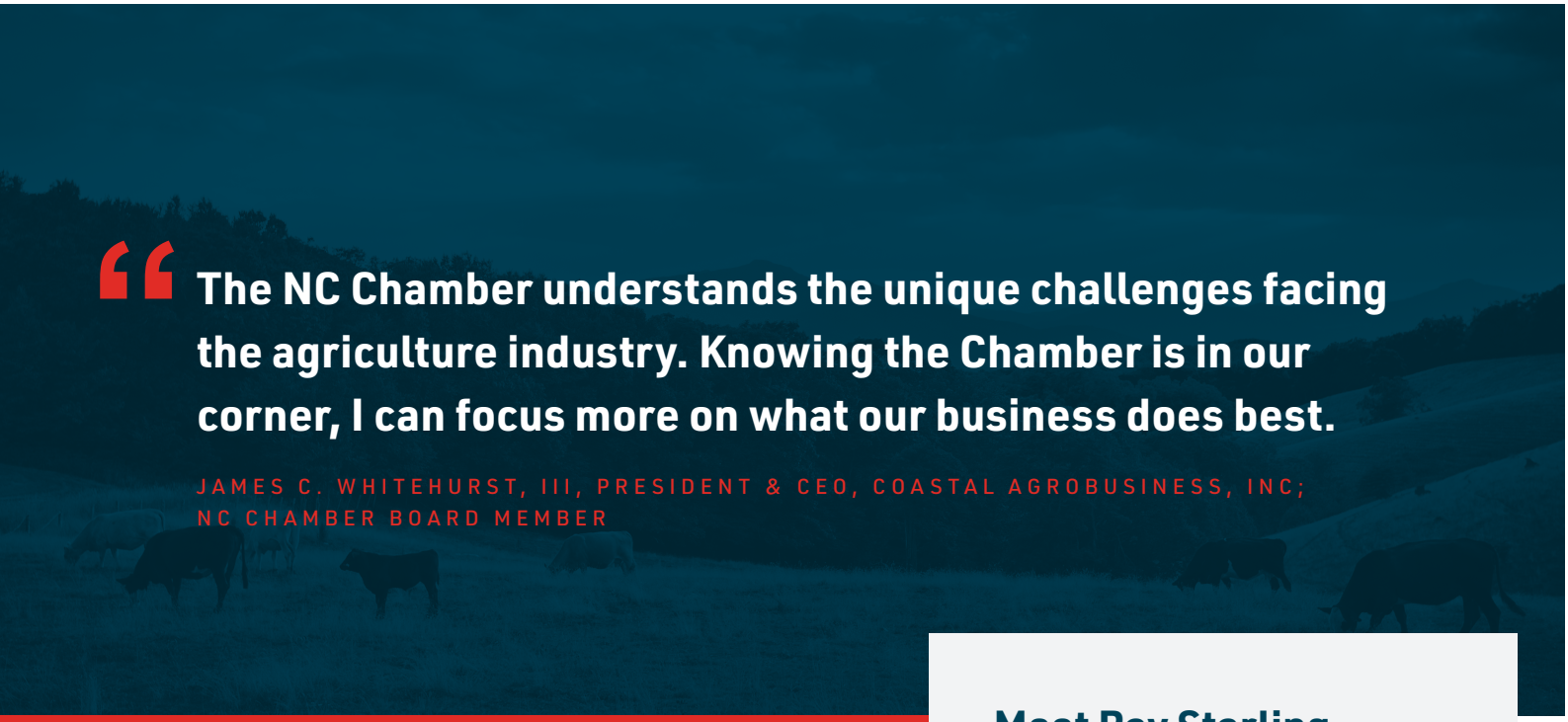
**2020**
The NC Chamber pushed for passage of Senate Bill 704 and House Bill 118, protecting agribusinesses from unwarranted lawsuits stemming from the spread of COVID-19.

**2020**
The NC Chamber successfully opposed House Bill 1102, an anti-business bill that would have lowered regulatory certainty for manufacturers and dealers of agricultural equipment.

**2018**
The NC Chamber further strengthened protections for NC agribusiness against nuisance lawsuits through the NC Farm Act of 2018.

> **"From regulatory reform to strengthening nuisance lawsuit protections for farmers, the NC Chamber has stood up for North Carolina agribusiness time and time again.**

JOHN PRESTAGE, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, PRESTAGE FARMS, INC.



> **The NC Chamber understands the unique challenges facing the agriculture industry. Knowing the Chamber is in our corner, I can focus more on what our business does best.**
>
> JAMES C. WHITEHURST, III, PRESIDENT & CEO, COASTAL AGROBUSINESS, INC; NC CHAMBER BOARD MEMBER

## By the Numbers

**25**
Agribusiness members with 45,098 total employees.

**#1**
Sweet potato and tobacco producer.
*54% of all sweet potatoes in the nation are grown here.*

**80+**
Different commodities produced in North Carolina.

**$92 Billion**
Economic impact.

**772,000 Workers**
17.5% of the NC's workforce is employed by agribusiness.

## Join the Conversation

### Ag Allies Calls and Webinars

With a $92 billion annual contribution to our state's economy, agribusinesses help drive more than their share of North Carolina's economic success even as they provide communities across our nation with essentials for life. To advocate for this important industry, the NC Chamber hosts these member-only Ag Allies conversations where those who care about driving progress for agribusinesses can share ideas and insights. Examples of previous topics include policy updates, industry trends and developments in trade and labor.

## Meet Ray Starling

### General Counsel

As general counsel of the NC Chamber and president of the NC Chamber Legal Institute, Ray sets strategy for litigation at the NC Chamber, the NC Chamber Legal Institute and its affiliated entities. He also leads public policy development. Previously, Ray served as chief of staff to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, the principal agriculture advisor to the President of the United States, chief of staff and chief counsel for Senator Thom Tillis, and general counsel for the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Ray grew up on a Century Family Farm in southeastern North Carolina and credits that experience as having more to do with his career path than any other opportunity. He understands your business and has the expertise to create an environment where it can thrive.

**Ray Starling**
General Counsel
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# ABOUT US

The NC Chamber is the leading business advocacy organization in North Carolina. We work in the legislative, regulatory and political arenas to proactively drive positive change, ensuring that North Carolina is one of the best places in the world to do business.

We believe every business is important and matters to North Carolina's future. That's why the NC Chamber will continue to be a voice for the commonsense middle and work tirelessly to advocate for solutions to make North Carolina a place where each business and its workforce can thrive. Our members are the businesses–large and small, across every industry and region–that fuel our state's success.

Our approach is three-pronged. The NC Chamber Foundation researches and develops policy recommendations to solve the state's greatest challenges, the NC Chamber's government affairs team advocates for those policies to help businesses compete and succeed, and the NC Chamber's Voter Education Program puts the action behind the ideas by supporting elected officials who stand up for the business community–or recruiting and electing pro-growth leaders who will.

An aligned business community matters and the NC Chamber is the voice of business. If you join, we can speak for yours too.

NC Chamber

ncchamber.com