

## **GOP Executive Director Says Democrats Celebrate HB2 Economic Damage**

By Donna Martinez

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North Carolina Republican Party executive director said at a news conference that emails released by WikiLeaks showed Democrats “celebrated” the economic damage caused by House Bill 2 and revealed “intentional sabotage” to the state’s economy by Democrats.

One of the emails said a Democratic Party staffer wrote “Awesome” in an email thread about the cancelation of a Pearl Jam concert. Another had a Democratic Party official refer to Gov . Pat McCrory as a “moronic little bigot of a tarheel governor.”

HB2

requires transgender people in government facilities to use the restroom that matches the gender on their birth certificate.

Claire Mahoney, Mecklenburg County GOP chair, said the Democrats were using the HB2

issue to create a “nationally orchestrated, nationally implemented” campaign to help Cooper and Hillary Clinton, the Democratic presidential candidate.

The state Democratic Party dismissed the GOP’s allegations.

“There is no evidence to back up these ridiculous claims,” state Democratic Party spokesperson Dave Miranda said.

“The job losses and economic damage from HB2

are the responsibility of the GOP led legislature and the Republican governor who signed this bill,” Miranda said. “Now the GOP is turning around and pretending that Democrats are somehow responsible.”