



HENDERSON COUNTY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

Illegal Immigration Committee hears from employer

July 9, 2007 -- Hendersonville, NC: The Henderson County Blue Ribbon Committee on Illegal Immigration met today, July 9, "and continues to make slow but steady progress on a draft report to county commissioners," said committee chair Bob Heltman.

The 11-member committee heard a presentation on the employer's perspective given by immigrant and committee member Bert Lemkes who works for Van Wingerden International Inc., an international wholesale nursery and greenhouse company in Fletcher.

"We are underestimating the economic contribution illegal immigrants make in this community," Lemkes said after the meeting. "We are emphasizing the cost of lower paid labor but we are not willing to see the contribution those people make to our local economy and our national economy."

The committee will meet again Monday, July 16 at 11:30 a.m. in the commissioner's meeting room, 100 N. King Street.

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