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With 2014 and the election season underway, now is the time to ramp up our efforts to ensure our message reaches voters in every corner of our state.

I'm working on commonsense solutions to the biggest issues facing our country. And though it's been disappointing to watch insider politicians shut down our government and try to take our country backwards, I'm not willing to back down. I remain focused on sensible efforts to put our people back to work, improve opportunities for our students, and protect against special interests who want to balance our budget on the backs of seniors and service members.

Over the last year, the General Assembly's laundry list of fringe policies has had a devastating effect on middle-class North Carolinians. Their disastrous record of gutting public education spending by nearly half a billion dollars, raising taxes on working families, ramming through anti-women's health legislation and passing the most restrictive voter access law in the country is a violation of the shared North Carolina values we hold so dear.

But we can't afford to sit back while out-of-touch legislators in Raleigh and unprecedented gridlock in Washington ride roughshod over our principles. In my race, outside special interests have already spent \$7 million to attack me and prop up my opponents. They are trying to buy this election and elect someone to carry their water. But I'm not worried, because my campaign, and the campaigns of my colleagues up and down the ballot have something far more powerful – all of you.

This year, the stakes are high. I will need each of you to stand with me as we stand up for our North Carolina values and show these outside interests that North Carolina can't be bought. I am committed to keeping the promise that North Carolina is a place "where the weak grow strong and the strong grow great."

Please be sure to sign up to volunteer on my website and follow me on Facebook and Twitter to get campaign updates. Thank you for your work to ensure a bright future for all our state's people. I look forward to seeing you on the campaign trail.

Senator Kay R. Hagan