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**HERALD
SMITHFIELD, N.C.**

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**County doesn't need
liquor by the drink**

It never ceases to amaze me the lengths to which some people will go in their attempt to make that

which is wrong seem to be right.

The editorial in the December 3 edition of The Smithfield Herald attempts to sell the old idea that liquor by the drink is the avenue to economic prosperity for all.

In fact, nothing could be further from the truth. The only thing that comes with liquor, whether by the drop, the drink, the bottle, or the gallon, is trouble. Take a look at the court report in any edition of the paper and you will see the number of offenses related to alcohol. These represent only a small number of the actual problems, those who broke the law, were caught, charged, and brought to trial.

In addition, consider the number of incidents of domestic violence committed by persons under the influence of alcohol.

To suggest that liquor by the drink is all that stands in the way of new industry, good jobs, and a great economic boom for our county is, at best, inaccurate.

It is easy to see that Michael de Sherbinin has not been a world-class success at bringing new industry to our county. But to place the blame for his failure on the absence of liquor by the drink is absurd. New businesses, like those that already operate in our county, are more concerned with the effect of an ever increasing load of new taxes and further government regulation.

In every case, the use of alcohol increases when liquor by the drink is introduced. With the increased use come increased problems, especially violent crimes. In addition, every time a drink is served, another opportunity is offered for an individual to get behind the wheel of a vehicle and kill someone.

There is simply no good use of alcohol. It is a drug, a dangerous drug that kills. The kind of growth and development that liquor by the drink brings we can do without.

TIMOTHY S. STEVENS
Pastor, First Baptist Church
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