



June 11, 2020

It is often easy to denounce racism without making any true commitment to change or even believing that the problem in America is still so pervasive in 2020. Yet recent events show clearly that the issue is not only real, but as pervasive as it has ever been.

The Cleveland County Chamber's mission has been to promote, educate and advocate for all businesses in our county with a sincere hope that our efforts have been seen as inclusive and inviting for any and all. We now recognize that merely hoping is not enough, and that we must be willing to proactively communicate and, more importantly, accept constructive feedback that can help guide our efforts at inclusivity.

The Chamber staff and Board of Directors will, therefore, publicly commit to actively support and engage with all businesses while simultaneously denouncing all forms of racism and intolerance. Our goal is to be a visible agent for change, and we will take very intentional steps to listen and act appropriately.

Our county has long demonstrated success in various initiatives that required wide community involvement. We are confident that we can again work together to provide equal opportunities for a bright and prosperous future for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bill Watson
Chamber President
704-487-8521