NOTE 22: TAX ABATEMENTS

As of June 30, 2017, the State provides tax abatements through one program, the Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG). The purpose of the JDIG program is to stimulate economic activity and benefit citizens throughout the State through the creation of new jobs, resulting in an enlargement of the overall tax base, an expansion and diversification of the State's industrial base, and an increase in revenue to the State and its political subdivisions.

The tax being abated is the State income tax withheld by employers under North Carolina General Statute 105-163.2. The authority for the abatement falls under North Carolina General Statute Chapter 143B Article 10 Part 2G.

The eligibility criteria for the abatement include the following:

- The project proposed by the business will create, during the term of the engagement, a net increase in employment in the State by the business.
- The project will benefit the people of the State by increasing opportunities for employment and by strengthening the State's economy by, for example, providing worker training opportunities, constructing and enhancing critical infrastructure, increasing development in strategically important industries, or increasing the State and local tax base.
- The project is consistent with economic development goals for the State and for the area where the project will be located.
- A grant is necessary for the completion of the project in the State.
- The total benefits of the project to the State outweigh the costs and render the grant appropriate for the project.
- For a project located in a tier three development area, the affected local governments have participated in recruitment and offered incentives in a manner appropriate for the project.

The amount of the grant awarded in each case shall be a percentage of the State income tax withholdings of eligible positions for a period of years. The percentage shall be no more than 80% for a tier one development area and no more than 75% for any other area.

The North Carolina Department of Commerce annually ranks the State's 100 counties based on the economic well-being and assigns each a tier designation. County tiers are calculated using four factors: the average unemployment rate, the median household income, the percentage growth in population, and the adjusted property tax base per capita. The 40 most distressed counties are designated as tier one, the next 40 as tier two, and the 20 least distressed counties as tier three.

If the business receiving a grant fails to meet or comply with any condition or requirement set forth in an agreement, the amount of the grant or the term of the agreement shall be reduced, the agreement may be terminated, or both. If a business fails to maintain employment at the levels stipulated in the agreement or otherwise fails to comply with any condition of the agreement for any two consecutive years, the grant payment will be withheld for any consecutive year after the second consecutive year remaining in the base period in which the business fails to comply with any condition of the agreement. If the business is no longer within the base period, the agreement shall be terminated.

The business commits to creating a minimum of 10 eligible positions in a tier one area, 20 eligible positions in a tier two area, or 50 eligible positions in a tier three area. The business must provide health insurance for all applicable full-time employees on the project with respect to which the grant is made.

The amount of taxes abated for fiscal year end June 30, 2017 on an accrual basis as a result of the agreements with the State is $44.6 million. The State has made no other commitments other than to abate taxes.