

Hanson Bridgett stands in support of the withdrawal of companies from North Carolina as a response to HB2.

We are a firm that believes in the inclusion and the civil rights of all and are disappointed that North Carolina supports such a law.

1,700 Companies Withdraw from North Carolina Events in Response to HB2 Standing for Inclusion, B Corps Relocate Series of October Events.

WAYNE, PA, /CSRwire/ - Today, in response to HB2, North Carolina's new law limiting anti-discrimination protections, the global community of nearly 1,700 Certified B Corporations announced it will relocate a cluster of October events out of North Carolina. Those events include the annual global gathering of B Corp CEOs and executives; a series of public talks and street festival called B Inspired; a conference for the economic development arms of city governments, corporate supply chain managers, and impact investors called Measure What Matters; and a conference for university educators teaching business as a force for good.

"B Corps seek to build a more inclusive economy, and that is not possible with laws like HB2 on the books," said Jay Coen Gilbert, co-founder of B Lab, the nonprofit behind the B Corp movement. "Through the upcoming legislative session, we will work closely with the North Carolina B Corp community and the LGBT community most affected by this law to make North Carolina more business friendly and enable us to return as soon as possible." Read B Lab's full statement on North Carolina HB2.

HB2 requires people to use public bathrooms associated with the sex assigned on their birth certificate instead of that with which they identify, which most adversely affects transgender people. HB2 appears to remove the civil right of all people to file anti-discrimination lawsuits with the State based on race, religion, color, national origin, age, sex, or handicap. HB2 also eliminates the ability for cities in North Carolina to support a living wage. The ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) has filed a lawsuit in federal court challenging the constitutionality of HB2 under the Equal Protection clause of the U.S. Constitution.

Kevin Trapani, CEO of The Redwoods Group, a Morrisville, North Carolina-based commercial property casualty insurer and Certified B Corp said, "As it actually says in North Carolina law,

we believe that discrimination ‘foments domestic strife and unrest, deprives the State of the fullest utilization of its capacities for advancement and development, and substantially and adversely affects the interests of employees, employers, and the public in general.’ We are ready to work with proponents of HB2 to help forge ‘One North Carolina’ that lives up to its own creed so that we can welcome the global B Corp community to our great state as soon as possible.” John Replogle, CEO of Seventh Generation, who leads the national brand and Seventh Generation Ventures from HQ Raleigh, said, “As a founding B Corp, we stand united with the 1,700 CEOs who are using business as a force for good and will muster all of our resources to overturn this abhorrent law. North Carolina deserves better and the business community must stand united that HB2 is bad for our state and bad for business.”

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