



Association *for the Study of Literature and Environment*

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Association for the Study of Literature and Environment Public Statement on North Carolina's HB-2

The Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE) recently received a proposal to hold our biennial conference in Greensboro, North Carolina. ASLE's executive council voted unanimously not to consider North Carolina as a location for ASLE biennial conferences or off-year symposiums while North Carolina's House Bill 2 (HB-2), the Public Facilities Privacy and Security Act, remains in effect.

HB-2 specifically requires individuals to use public restrooms that match the gender listed on their birth certificates even when that differs from their gender identity. HB-2 also makes it illegal for cities to create non-discrimination laws that expand upon state law. This prohibits cities in North Carolina from protecting people from any discrimination on the basis of their sexuality or gender identification. It also limits claims against other forms of discrimination, including on the basis of race, national origin, religion, or ability. HB-2 overturns city ordinances in more than a dozen North Carolina cities. Complying with the law would require institutions of higher education in North Carolina to violate the federal protections mandated by Title IX.

According to ASLE's advocacy policy (adopted by the ASLE executive council), "The ASLE executive council is empowered to speak for the association on public issues where these directly affect our ability to safely meet in national or regional conferences, and freely conduct our business. Such issues include, but are not restricted to, the passage of laws and regulations tending to discriminate against particular classes or groups of association members." HB-2 is a discriminatory measure that prevents our members from being safely able to meet in North Carolina. The Department of Justice has filed a federal civil rights lawsuit against the state of North Carolina, Governor Pat McCrory, the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, and the University of North Carolina on the grounds that HB-2 violates federal civil rights law.

We stand in support with the many people in North Carolina organizing against HB-2, including faculty, staff, and students in colleges and universities around the state. We stand in support with all those in North Carolina negatively affected by its requirements. We look forward to the day where we can again consider holding our biennial conferences and off-year symposiums in North Carolina.