

July 17, 2014

Honorable Pat McCrory
Governor of State of North Carolina
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

received
7-17-2014

Dear Governor McCrory,

I would like to thank you for the confidence you placed in me to represent our state as the North Carolina Poet Laureate. However, I have decided to step down from this position effective immediately. I do not want the negative attention that this appointment has generated to discourage or distract attention from the Office of the Poet Laureate.

I remain passionate about the mission of poetry to touch all people regardless of age, education or social status. I would like to encourage everyone to read and write poetry. They do not need a list of prestigious publishing credits or a collection of accolades from impressive organizations – just the joy of words and appreciation of self-expression.

I would like to thank the many individuals who have voiced their support of my appointment.

Sincerely,



Valerie Macon