

North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory visited the High Country Friday, speaking at the Appalachian Energy Summit, touring downtown Boone and hosting a meet-and-greet event at Mellow Mushroom on W. King Street. It was his first visit to Boone since taking office in January 2013. McCrory arrived at Mellow Mushroom shortly after 2 p.m. to a crowd of people, half of which appeared to be comprised supporters and the other half people who sought to protest the governor. Signs displayed by protesters included sayings such as, "Stop making N.C. the subject of The Daily Show" and "Voter suppression is immoral." Representatives from both the Watauga County Republican and Democratic parties were present.

McCrory was escorted by a number of law enforcement officials, including officers from the Boone Police Department and deputies from the Watauga County Sheriff's Department.

Photos courtesy of Jeremiah Farmer