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## Capital Letters

A mountain reporter's dispatches from Raleigh

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[Opponents line up behind Dalton](#)

01:31:09 pm, Categories: [Main](#)

Canton Mayor Pat Smathers issued a strong statement today in support of former opponent Walter Dalton, the Democratic nominee for lieutenant governor.

"I hope you will join me in supporting Walter Dalton for lieutenant governor," Smathers said in an e-mail to supporters. "I enjoyed getting to know Walter during this campaign, and believe he will do a great job for our state. Walter cares deeply about strengthening our schools, creating jobs in our rural communities and helping North Carolinians weather the foreclosure crisis."

Other rivals Dan Besse and Hampton Dellinger also sent out e-mails saying they would stand behind the Rutherfordton senator.

Dalton "will have my strong personal support," Besse said.

"I look forward to supporting him and the entire Democratic ticket," Dellinger wrote.

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