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Hagan Says She's Working To Bring Jobs To North Carolina

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STANLY COUNTY, N.C. -- On a day when more dismal unemployment numbers were released, Sen. Kay Hagan was glad to be in the Charlotte area talking about stimulus projects that could soon have equipment moving and, in the process, create jobs that thousands of people are desperate to find.

Hagan is three months into her first term in the United States Senate. Friday, she stood with state transportation leaders on the banks of Albemarle's Long Creek, yards from a 90-year-old bridge that is about to be replaced using \$3 million in stimulus money. The construction will create nearly 100 jobs.

She sat down with Eyewitness News to talk about the prospects that may arise from the stimulus money.

"North Carolina's going to get \$6.1 billion in this package. It's supposed to create or save 105,000 jobs," Hagan said.

Hagan insists that more than construction jobs will be created with stimulus money, and she said alternative energy could lead the way.

"The renewable energy industry is going to be growing. The key is, where's it going to be produced? Where are the batteries going to be produced? Where are the solar panels going to be produced?" she asked.

Hagan said she'll work for North Carolina to get those jobs, but for Charlotte the most immediate impact from stimulus funds should come in the next eight weeks when crews will begin widening Highway 51 through Pineville and repaving a miles long stretch of Highway 218 around the north side of Monroe.

North Carolina Department of Transportation leaders also rolled out another batch of shovel-ready projects on Friday.

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