



The Honorable Phil Berger
President Pro Tempore of the N.C. Senate
16 W. Jones Street, Room 2007
Raleigh, NC 27601

The Honorable Tim Moore
Speaker of the N.C. House of Representatives
16 W. Jones Street, Room 2304
Raleigh, NC 27601

Re: Northeastern NC Chambers Encourage Support for Policies that Advance NC's Clean Energy Economy

Dear President Pro Tempore Berger and Speaker Moore:

Thank you for your leadership and service to all North Carolinians and our great communities that are the lifeblood of our state's economy.

As representatives of the local business community, our Chambers of Commerce represent hundreds of companies across the northeast region of North Carolina – many of which have been contributing to our economy for generations.

In recent years, we've also welcomed new economic development opportunities and business, such as wind and solar energy project developers, service providers, manufacturing companies, research and educational institutions, engineering, architecture, construction firms and contractors, and other businesses engaged in the renewable energy economy. This renewable energy economy is thriving and is critical to our region, and we respectfully ask for your assistance in keeping these projects alive and thriving.

As chamber leaders, we feel it is in our best interest to speak in support of the rapidly-growing clean energy industry and the economic development benefits it brings to the northeast.

Our region is comprised mostly of rural, Tier 1 and 2 counties that include some of our state's most economically challenged areas. Many of our communities have been struggling to attract new jobs, business opportunities and major investments for decades.

On the bright side, we've seen first-hand the economic development benefits and jobs the renewable energy industry can and will provide across our region and state. To date, North Carolina's clean energy industry has generated nearly \$9 billion in investment, saved money for families and businesses, driven down costs of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies, and kept our precious natural resources, air and water clean. And, we're just getting started. The future is bright, as long as we maintain state policies and regulations that allow clean energy to advance.

Wind energy is booming in our region. We are fortunate enough to be home to the Southeast's first utility-scale wind farm, Amazon Wind Farm US East near Elizabeth City, and the economic benefits reaped

by the region cannot be denied. This \$400 million project resulted in \$18 million in local spending and nearly 600 construction jobs during the construction period. It has quickly become the largest taxpayer in both Perquimans and Pasquotank Counties, while creating permanent jobs, tax revenues, and a stable source of income to rural farmers and landowners via lease payments.

Solar energy has also bloomed in our region. We are fortunate to have Summit Farm Solar, one of the United States' largest solar projects, located in Moyock. This project was built by SunEnergy1 and generates clean electricity for a partnership of reputable organizations concerned about the impact of greenhouse gas emissions, including a non-profit hospital, public university, and a small business. More than 1,000 jobs were created during the construction phase, supporting local economies across the northeast region.

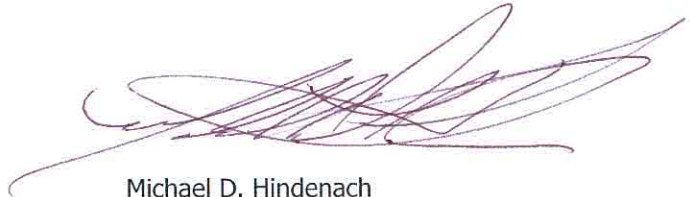
Like many of our nation's leading Fortune 100 and 500 companies, Amazon has the long-term goal of operating their facilities on 100 percent clean energy, and currently has 40 percent coming from renewables. These major employers and business leaders, many of which have substantial operations in North Carolina, have made access to renewable energy a key factor in site selection, thereby allowing clean energy to drive economic growth and investment. Locations unable to innovate and meet this growing market demand are quickly becoming less attractive and without strong pro-business and pro-renewable energy policies, a state might remove themselves from competition for these businesses and jobs.

North Carolina's clean energy sectors are growing and innovating, and we encourage our state lawmakers to support policies that will allow the industry to grow and thrive in every county in the Old North State. We hope to see lawmakers send a clear signal to companies and investors that North Carolina is open for business. We hope you will stand with us in support of the clean energy industry and foster its ongoing growth and expansion, allowing our region and state to reap the economic benefits.

Sincerely,



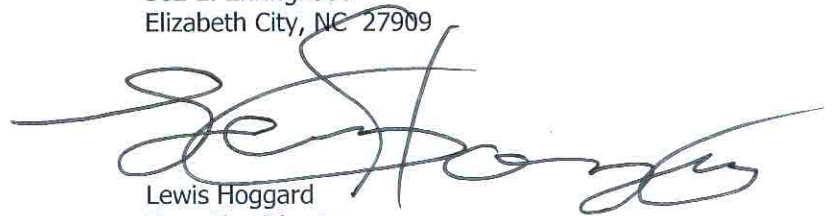
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