Dear Governor Cooper,

The North Carolina Electric Vehicle Working Group (NCEVWG) is pleased to offer our support and submit recommendations to inform the development of North Carolina’s Beneficiary Mitigation Plan under the Volkswagen (VW) settlement. Funding available through the VW Mitigation Trust presents a rare opportunity for our state to make investments in transportation infrastructure and equipment that can unlock a range of benefits, including cost savings for vehicle and fleet owners, increased competition, reduced dependence on conventional fuels, economic and employment growth, grid and electricity market benefits, and significant reductions in air pollution. With that in mind, the working group recommends that North Carolina allocate the maximum allowable amount (15%) of settlement funds for electric vehicle charging infrastructure and installations. We also encourage that North Carolina, whenever possible, prioritize EVs for medium, heavy duty and buses for replacement with the other 85% of the settlement funds because doing so will maximize both the local economic impact and the reduction of NOx. North Carolina is already leading in EVs in some areas - the City of Raleigh was selected by Electrify America as one of 16 focus markets.

This funding’s impact is even greater because it comes at a pivotal time when advanced EV models have reached technological maturity but have not yet achieved widespread deployment. In developing a Beneficiary Mitigation Plan, we face choices that will mark the difference between simply achieving emission reductions, or laying the groundwork for a transformative shift in the transportation landscape that enables economic development and deeper emissions reductions.

The NCEVWG membership includes members of the private sector, government agencies, and non-profit organizations that represent thousands of North Carolina employers and residents.

As you develop the Beneficiary Mitigation Plan, please consider the NC Electric Vehicle Working Group as a resource for recommendations and information on both technology and policy issues. Our members look forward to helping NC in its transition to a 21st century transportation system.

Sincerely,

The NC Electric Vehicle Working Group
Ward Lenz, Development Director, NC Sustainable Energy Association

Lang Reynolds, Electric Transportation Manager, Duke Energy

Anne Blair, Director, Clean Fuels, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy

Ben Prochazka, Vice-President, Electrification Coalition

David Schembri, CEO, EVgo

Rick Sapienza, Director, Clean Transportation Program, NC Clean Energy Technology Center
David Schatz, Director, Public Policy, ChargePoint, Inc.

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David Rogers, North Carolina Representative Beyond Coal Campaign, Sierra Club

Stan Cross, CEO, Brightfield Transportation Solutions