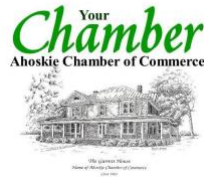


June 6, 2019



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 Support Policies to Expand Economic Growth and Job Creation Opportunities

Dear Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Berger and House Speaker Tim Moore,

Thank you for your leadership and service to all North Carolinians and our great communities who 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 - and many have been contributing to our economy for generations.

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

In recent years, however, we've welcomed new economic development opportunities and businesses, including wind and solar energy project developers, service providers, manufacturing companies, research and educational institutions, engineering, architects, construction firms and contractors, and other businesses engaged in the renewable energy sector. In fact, North Carolina's clean energy industry has generated \$14.8 billion in investment and created more than 43,000 jobs for our state. Currituck and Halifax counties have each attracted more than \$300 million of capital investment via clean energy projects.

Specifically, we are home to the \$400 million Amazon Wind Farm US East near Elizabeth City which brought \$18 million in local spending and nearly 600 construction jobs during development. That project was built by Avangrid Renewables which is now the largest taxpayer in both Pasquotank and Perquimans counties. Additionally, Moyock is home to the Summit Farm Solar, one of the nation's largest solar projects, which created more than 1,000 jobs during construction. Summit

Farm Solar together with two other area solar farms in Currituck County generate \$225,244 annually in new, local tax revenue.

Major employers all around the country, many of which have substantial operations in North Carolina, such as Amazon, 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.

As Chamber leaders, we feel it is in our best interest to speak in support of the rapidly growing clean energy industry because of the economic development benefits it brings to our regions. We encourage our state lawmakers to support policies that allow the industry to thrive in the northeastern part of North Carolina and beyond. We also ask that you oppose legislation that presents unnecessary roadblocks to wind farm development.

We hope to see Members of the North Carolina General Assembly send a clear signal to companies and investors that our state 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 the Tar Heel State to maximize these much-needed economic development opportunities and resulting benefits for our citizens and communities

We thank you for your consideration and your continued leadership of our State.

Sincerely,

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Executive Vice President
Ahoskie Chamber of Commerce
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Ahoskie, NC 27910

Holly Staples
President
Elizabeth City Chamber of Commerce
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Executive Director
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Windsor, NC 27983

CC: Members of the NC Senate, Members of the NC House of Representatives, Governor Cooper & DEQ Secretary Regan