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## Businesses urge state legislators to pass efficiency bill before adjournment

**RALEIGH, N.C., July 1, 2019** — Major employers and trade groups across North Carolina are urging state legislators to pass a bill that would increase energy savings goal for state-owned buildings, which would help the state — and its taxpayers — avoid an estimated \$1.1 billion in utility costs by 2025. [Click here](#) to view the letter and more information about the signatories (pictured above).

House Bill 330, [Efficient Government Buildings and Savings Act](#), encourages state agencies, universities, community colleges, and other state-owned buildings to cut their energy waste by 40 percent by 2025. The legislation, which is sponsored by Rep. John Szoka (R-Cumberland), Rep. Dean Arp (R-Union), Rep. Chris Humphrey (R-Lenoir, Pitt) and Rep. Stephen Ross (R-Alamance), overwhelmingly passed the N.C. House of Representatives on April 3, 2019, and is awaiting action by the N.C. Senate. Legislators appear to be winding down their work for the 2019 long session of the N.C. General Assembly, which convened in January, so time could be short for this legislation to cross the finish line.

“By investing in energy efficiency, we can reduce total energy costs for all ratepayers, mitigate the impact of fuel and electricity price increases, and build a more affordable, reliable electricity system,” says a letter that 14 businesses and trade groups sent to lawmakers on Monday. Signers of the letter include:

- Alliance for Industrial Efficiency
- Ameresco, Inc.
- Cree Lighting
- Ingersoll Rand
- NORESKO
- Schneider Electric
- Siemens Corporation
- United Technologies
- National Association of Energy Service Companies (NAESCO)
- National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)
- North Carolina Building Performance Association (NCBPA)
- North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association (NCSEA)
- North Carolina Clean Energy Business Alliance (NCCEBA)
- Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association (PIMA)

“Over the last 15 years, saving energy and reducing waste in state-owned buildings directly saved taxpayers more than a billion dollars in utility bills - this is a huge ‘win-win’ for North Carolina - and the future potential is even greater,” said Ward Lenz, Managing Director with North Carolina Sustainable

Energy Association. “House Bill 330 had strong bipartisan support in the House, and we encourage the Senate to pass it quickly before legislators adjourn and leave Raleigh.”

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality estimates that [House Bill 330](#), if passed, would allow the state to avoid \$1.1 billion in utility bills, which includes a net savings to taxpayers of \$252 million. The energy reduction would be achieved by, for example, installing high efficiency heating and cooling equipment, upgrading lighting, and adding and integrating new building controls and sensors.

Furthermore, the N.C. Energy Policy Council, which is chaired by Lt. Governor Dan Forest and includes energy experts with diverse experience, recommended in its 2016 and 2018 Biennial Reports that the N.C. General Assembly increase the energy savings goal in state-owned buildings by 40% by 2025

North Carolina lawmakers passed an initial energy-savings bill in 2003 that set the state’s energy efficiency goal at 20 percent by 2010. Legislators increased the energy savings goal to 30 percent in 2007 (Senate Bill 668), which was met in 2015. The Utility Savings Initiative has reduced energy waste from state-owned buildings by more than 30 percent, which has saved taxpayers \$1.4 billion since 2003, according to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality.

The University of North Carolina, for example, upgraded its lighting and replaced its mechanical systems, cutting yearly electricity costs by 42 percent, or \$873,000 a year.

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