



North Carolina General Assembly  
Senate Chamber  
State Legislative Building  
Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

May 13, 2021

The Honorable Governor Roy Cooper  
North Carolina Office of the Governor  
20301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Re: Support for Adoption of Rules to Reduce Carbon Pollution from the Energy Sector and to Join Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

Dear Governor Cooper,

We commend you for your leadership in confronting the threats that climate change poses to our State. By bringing North Carolina into the U.S. Climate Alliance and issuing Executive Order No. 80 (EO80), your administration has established science-based carbon pollution reduction and clean energy goals which are critical to ensuring that we in North Carolina do our part to help avert the worst impacts of climate change. We endorse the goals of the North Carolina Clean Energy Plan (CEP) to achieve a 70% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from 2005 levels by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

Recommendation A-1 of the CEP resulted in a stakeholder process that identified options to achieve these carbon reduction goals. Of the options examined, joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) was identified as one of the most cost-effective pathways for North Carolina to swiftly and meaningfully reduce power sector carbon pollution. We write to urge your administration to continue the common-sense approach to reducing greenhouse gas pollution that you launched with Executive Order 80 by establishing enforceable limits on power sector carbon pollution and joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

Achieving the Clean Energy Plan's 2030 target requires swift action. Clean Air Carolina and the North Carolina Coastal Federation's January 2021 petition filed with the Environmental Management Commission offers an efficient and cost-effective way for the state to proceed. This petition asks the Commission to adopt rules setting declining pollution limits for carbon dioxide from the electric power sector that are consistent with the goals of EO80 and the CEP.



The pending petition would have North Carolina participate in RGGI, a collaborative program of 11 other east coast states participating in a proven, cost-effective program for reducing power-sector carbon pollution, while stimulating economic growth and improving public health through improved air quality. As you know, Virginia has most recently joined RGGI, and rulemaking is underway in Pennsylvania that would bring that state into the collaboration as well. Early in the Murphy administration, New Jersey took the necessary steps to join RGGI. The recent movement of states to join RGGI has set the stage for North Carolina to do the same.

We often hear from our constituents about the impacts they are already feeling as a result of climate change, and their desire for North Carolina to act. Climate change is already impacting the health, natural resources, and economy of our state – as evidenced by more frequent and severe storms and erratic weather patterns impacting the North Carolina way of life from mountains to coast. Every month we delay is another month lost in the race to reduce carbon pollution and secure a brighter, safer future for each and every North Carolinian.

We would be happy to meet with you or your staff regarding the opportunity presented by the petition now pending before the Commission, and we look forward to working with you to accelerate North Carolina's transition to a clean energy future. As always, we shall continue promoting legislative climate and clean energy solutions and are ever wary and watchful of harmful legislation that would threaten to set our state back or create new barriers to the critical progress we must make in securing a safer, healthier, and more prosperous future for North Carolina.

Sincerely,



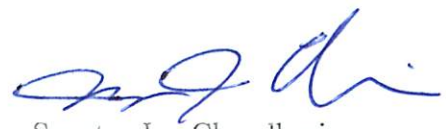
Senator Dan Blue  
Senate District 14



Senator Sydney Batch  
Senate District 17



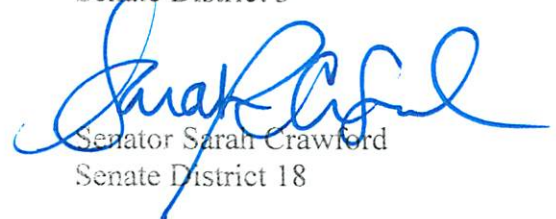
Senator Ben Clark  
Senate District 21



Senator Jay Chaudhuri  
Senate District 15



Senator Ernestine Bazemore  
Senate District 3



Senator Sarah Crawford  
Senate District 18



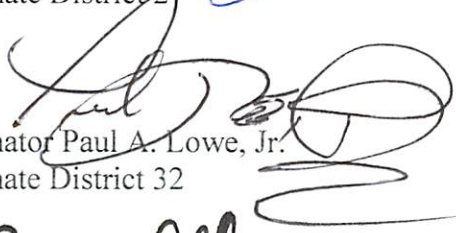
Senator Don Davis  
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Senate District 4



Senator Michael Garrett  
Senate District 27



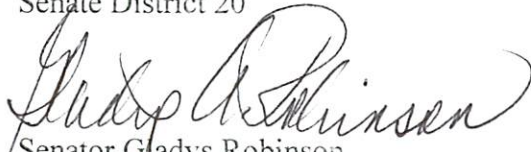
Senator Paul A. Lowe, Jr.  
Senate District 32



Senator Julie Mayfield  
Senate District 49



Senator Natalie Murdock  
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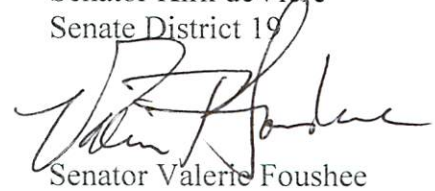
Senator Gladys Robinson  
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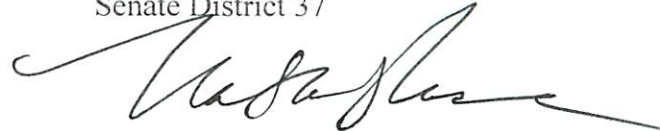
Senator Kirk deViere  
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Senator Valerie Foushee  
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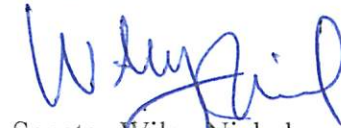
Senator Jeff Jackson  
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Senator Natasha Marcus  
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