



Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives Tim Moore  
North Carolina House of Representatives

March 4, 2015

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Our companies, like many of the leading companies in the United States, have set goals to increase our use of renewable energy. We recognize that environmental sustainability has become an essential ingredient to doing business responsibly and successfully. Collectively, we represent hundreds of facilities and tens of thousands of employees in North Carolina. With a quality workforce and a strong local economy, North Carolina has been an attractive place for us to do business. We are writing because we believe that it is important to have choice when selecting energy suppliers and products to meet our business and public goals. Changing North Carolina law to allow us – and others – to purchase renewable energy from third-party providers would create an even more positive business environment and would help us continue to create jobs and contribute to an even more robust local economy.

There are many benefits for North Carolina in allowing companies like us to enter into Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) with different renewable energy providers. Such a change will enhance competition and consumer choice, lead to an increase in the amount of renewable energy projects being developed (creating more jobs for those who build, install, and maintain the equipment), keep North Carolina competitive with the majority of other states that allow companies greater access to renewable energy choices, and make the state an even more attractive place to work and live by contributing to a clean and healthy environment.

North Carolina is currently 1 of only 5 states that explicitly prohibits contracts with non-utility energy service providers for renewable energy using a PPA. These PPAs are important because they allow us to procure energy without making major capital expenditures up front or taking on the risk associated with operating and maintaining a power generation system. Powering our facilities with renewable energy allows us to: avoid power price fluctuations by locking in rates over a long period of time; reduce our greenhouse gas emissions profile; meet business strategies and consumer preferences; and, often save money that we can put back into our businesses.

The availability of competitive renewable energy choices is also a key factor for many of us when we choose where to do business. While regulated utilities can and sometimes do offer attractive clean energy options, we believe that **choice and competition** in the renewable energy sector is as important as it is in the many other aspects of our businesses.

For all of the above reasons we want to express our support for the Legislature bringing more choice and competition to this growing sector by allowing third party PPAs for clean energy. North Carolina has shown to be a leader in renewable energy and supporting this policy will not only expand the state's leadership role it will also continue to strengthen the economy in North Carolina.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

For additional information please contact Roger Ballentine at [Roger@GreenStrategies.com](mailto:Roger@GreenStrategies.com)

Below is additional information on the 10 corporations co-signing the attached letter, which was sent to members of the NC General Assembly. In total, these corporate leaders represent 721 retail locations and 20 distribution centers or manufacturing facilities with nearly 70,000 employees in North Carolina. In expressing their support for allowing third party sales of energy in NC, several companies also detailed their experience negotiating power purchase agreements (PPAs) in a dozen states across the United States.

	<p><b>Walmart</b> – Each week, more than 245 million customers and members visit Walmart’s nearly 11,000 stores employing 2.2 million associates under 71 banners in 27 countries and e-commerce websites in 11 countries. <b><u>Within North Carolina, Walmart has 210 retail locations and 4 distribution centers with 49,084 employees.</u></b> Walmart has installed 335 renewable energy projects via power purchase agreements (PPAs) in the following states, which allow third party energy sales: AZ, CA, CO, CT, DE, MD, NY, OH &amp; OR. Learn more about Walmart’s operations in NC at: <a href="http://corporate.walmart.com/our-story/our-business/locations/#/united-states/north-carolina">http://corporate.walmart.com/our-story/our-business/locations/#/united-states/north-carolina</a></p>
	<p><b>Target Corporation</b> has 1,795 stores in the United States and 38 distribution centers employing approximately 366,000 team members worldwide. <b><u>Within North Carolina, Target has 47 retail locations and 1 distribution center with 8,802 employees.</u></b> Target has installed renewable energy projects via power purchase agreements (PPAs) in the following states, which allow third party energy sales: CT, NJ &amp; TX. <a href="https://corporate.target.com/">https://corporate.target.com/</a></p>
	<p><b>Macy’s, Inc.</b> is one of the nation’s premier omnichannel retailers, with fiscal 2014 sales of \$28.1 billion. The company operates the Macy’s and Bloomingdale’s brands with about 825 stores in 45 states, the District of Columbia, Guam and Puerto Rico. <b><u>Within North Carolina, Macy’s operates 12 retail locations and 2 distribution centers with 1,500 employees.</u></b> Macy’s has installed renewable energy projects via power purchase agreements (PPAs) in the following states, which allow third party energy sales: AZ, CA, CT, HI, NJ and NY. <a href="http://www.macys.com">www.macys.com</a></p>
	<p><b>VF Corporation</b> is an American clothing corporation, which sells jeanswear, underwear, daypacks, and workwear. <b><u>The corporate headquarters is located in Greensboro, North Carolina. The company also has 10 retail locations, 4 distribution or manufacturing facilities, and approximately 2,500 employees in NC.</u></b> Learn more about VF’s 25 different clothing brands at: <a href="http://www.vfc.com/brands">www.vfc.com/brands</a></p>
	<p><b>New Belgium Brewing Company</b> is a craft brewery located in Fort Collins, Colorado. <b><u>In April 2012, New Belgium announced it would build a new \$140 million brewery in West Asheville, North Carolina along the French Broad River and a separate packaging center in Enka. New Belgium expects the brewery to be operational by the end of 2015 employing 140 and producing its beers for the eastern United States.</u></b> New Belgium has installed renewable energy projects in Colorado via power purchase agreements (PPAs). Learn more about the West Asheville location at: <a href="http://www.newbelgium.com/community/ashevillebrewery.aspx">http://www.newbelgium.com/community/ashevillebrewery.aspx</a></p>

	<p><b>Unilever</b> is a British–Dutch multinational consumer goods company co-headquartered in Rotterdam, The Netherlands and London, United Kingdom. Unilever produces personal care products, including anti-perspirants and deodorants, body and hair care products under the brand names of Axe, Dove, Caress, Degree, TRESemmé, St. Ives and Suave. <b><u>Its distribution facility in Raeford, North Carolina is the largest anti-perspirants and deodorants stick plant in the world and employs 341.</u></b> <a href="http://www.unilever.com">www.unilever.com</a></p>
	<p><b>Lowe's</b> – Founded in 1946 in North Wilkesboro, NC, Lowe's Companies, Inc. is an American company that operates a chain of retail home improvement and appliance stores in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. <b><u>Lowe's has 25 retail stores and 4 distribution centers in North Carolina with 2,600 employees.</u></b> <a href="http://media.lowes.com/about-lowes/">http://media.lowes.com/about-lowes/</a></p>
	<p><b>Family Dollar</b> - With 8,100 locations across 46 states, Family Dollar is the second largest retailer of its type in the United States. <b><u>Headquartered in Matthews, just outside of Charlotte, Family Dollar has 417 retail locations in North Carolina and a distribution center, employing 1,750.</u></b> <a href="http://www.familydollar.com">www.familydollar.com</a></p>
	<p><b>Volvo</b> – Founded more than 80 years ago, Volvo provides transportation related products and services with focus on quality, safety and environmental care. <b><u>Employing has 2,200 workers within North Carolina, Volvo has a distribution facility and Volvo Trucks North American's Headquarters is located in Greensboro.</u></b> <a href="http://www.volvo.com">www.volvo.com</a></p>
	<p><b>Cargill</b> provides food, agriculture, financial and industrial products and services to the world. <b><u>Cargill has a processing facility in North Carolina with 22 employees.</u></b> <a href="http://www.cargill.com">www.cargill.com</a></p>