



August 10, 2021

The Honorable Phil Berger
Senate President Pro Tempore
16 West Jones Street, Rm. 2007
Raleigh, NC 27601

RE: Business Community Request to Amend House Bill 951, “Modernize Energy Generation” Legislation

Dear President Berger,

The Renewable Energy Buyers Alliance (REBA), [a national association of over 150 commercial and industrial energy customers](#)—including more than 30 major businesses with operations in North Carolina—urges substantive changes to House Bill 951. Amending the legislation to keep in place existing North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC) processes that protect customers and enhancing mechanisms for businesses to achieve corporate sustainability goals, all while leveraging more market-based solutions in the electricity sector, will generate economic development opportunities for North Carolina.

REBA’s members represent over \$6 trillion in annual revenues and employ 13 million people across the United States, including thousands of North Carolinians. As job creators, REBA’s members depend on affordable, clean, and reliable energy to power their facilities in North Carolina. They know firsthand how important it is to have an electricity system that benefits all customer classes, which allows businesses to meet their sustainability goals while also expanding access to clean energy for every North Carolinian.

The North Carolina Senate has an opportunity to amend House Bill 951 to address the long-term needs of the state’s residential, commercial, and industrial ratepayers. These changes include:

- **Maintaining the jurisdictional authority of the NCUC to safeguard ratepayers.** REBA’s members support the removal of language that limits the ability of the NCUC to use its regulatory expertise and discretion to protect ratepayers. Allowing the NCUC to determine costs to be securitized and ensuring utility generation investments are properly planned and assessed in the public interest will minimize rate impacts, increase access to clean energy, and retain North Carolina’s position as a job creator.
- **Ensuring renewable energy procurement programs for large energy users remain accessible.** REBA’s members encourage modifications that expand the availability of renewable energy through Green Source Advantage, Shared Solar, and other procurement mechanisms that allow large energy customers to meet their sustainability goals. With businesses placing a growing emphasis on access to clean energy when deciding whether to expand or relocate their facilities, restricting customer participation in these programs will inhibit economic development.

REBA’s members believe amending House Bill 951 is necessary to meet the needs of all ratepayers in North Carolina. As such, we respectfully request that the North Carolina Senate consider these modifications to position the state for continued growth and prosperity in the future.

Sincerely,

Bryn Baker
Director, Policy Innovation

cc: Members of the North Carolina Senate