



NC SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ASSOCIATION

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NCSEA STATEMENT:

Apple, Google and Facebook Urge North Carolina Legislators to Maintain Clean Energy Policies

Technology Giants Express Concern over Proposed REPS Freeze in House Bill 332

RALEIGH, N.C., MAY 28, 2015 – Representing billions of dollars in investment and hundreds of full-time jobs at data centers across North Carolina, Apple, Google and Facebook sent state legislators a letter opposing House Bill 332, which seeks to change policies for renewable energy and energy efficiency in North Carolina. Leading 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to shaping the state’s clean and efficient energy future, NC Sustainable Energy Association (NCSEA), commends these three companies for their commitment to North Carolina’s clean energy economy.

Recent arguments have surfaced that North Carolina will be unable to attract companies like these if the reforms in House Bill 332 do not become law. Apple, Google and Facebook deflate this assertion through this letter, which contends the presence of clean energy in the North Carolina portfolio, supported by policies such as the Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (REPS), is a driving reason these companies chose to bring their businesses to North Carolina versus other southeastern states that also have low electricity rates.

In recognition of the utility monopoly and the lack of a free market, NCSEA encourages ratepayers across the state to consider the complex nature of energy policy and reject efforts to change the rules for companies and investors without considerable study of the effects to existing companies, investments and jobs in North Carolina.

Please find the full letter below and [here](#) in its entirety:

Dear President Pro Tempore Berger and Speaker Moore: TechNet is the bipartisan policy and political network of CEOs and senior executives that promotes the innovation economy. As employers and major electricity customers in North Carolina, the undersigned TechNet member companies write today to raise concerns over the energy policy language of H332 (originally found in H760), which we believe would have a significant negative impact on the availability of a clean and diversified energy supply in the state.

As global companies providing services to consumers around the world from our operations in the state, a reliable, sustainable electricity supply is critical, and requires sourcing power from renewable energy. In fact, the right and ability to access power from renewable resources is not merely a goal, but an expectation.

The current policies were put in place after careful consideration and produce significant benefits – something we have seen consistently in states with strong commitments to renewable energy – which include providing sustainable sources of power, diversifying the energy supply, supporting innovation, and providing billions of dollars of in-state economic growth and thousands of jobs throughout the state.

We are concerned the legislation would freeze the Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (REPS), which provides a steadily increasing baseline of clean energy for the North Carolina grid over time. We believe the REPS should be maintained because our collective experience shows that programs like the REPS can actually reduce the overall cost of energy to ratepayers.



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In addition, this legislation would drastically lower the size threshold at which renewable energy projects require contracts that are negotiated with the utilities. This proposed change was previously carefully reviewed by the North Carolina Utilities Commission, and rejected. More importantly, by imposing a size limit that is far below the typical size of utility-scale projects, this change would effectively create a barrier to the development of many new projects, and put a chill on investment.

The undersigned companies have chosen to locate in North Carolina in part because the state's existing energy policies enable us to operate and grow our businesses in furtherance of the goals mentioned above. Any change should therefore consider not just protecting, but expanding these benefits, and any changes should include a comprehensive review of energy policies through established, inclusive stakeholder processes.

We respectfully request that the General Assembly not alter the current carefully developed law and policy structure upon which industry has relied for purposes of investment decisions and which has made North Carolina particularly attractive to our businesses. Alterations risk undermining the state's almost decade-long commitment to renewable power and energy efficiency. We support a comprehensive review, in which we would like to participate. In the meantime, to avoid creating new risk and uncertainty for our businesses, we urge you to keep in place the existing, well balanced and meticulously examined energy policy.

Thank you for taking our views into account; we look forward to working with you on these critical issues.

Apple, Inc. | Facebook, Inc. | Google Inc.

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About NCSEA

The NC Sustainable Energy Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit membership organization of individuals, businesses, government and nonprofits interested in North Carolina's sustainable energy future. NCSEA is the leading North Carolina nonprofit devoted to leading public policy change and driving market development in ways that will create clean energy jobs and lower electric rates in the long-term. Founded in 1978, NCSEA works every day to support and attract clean energy jobs, economic opportunities and affordable energy to benefit North Carolina. Today, our Raleigh-based team of clean energy advisors, analysts and advocates works closely with policymakers, consumers and industry leaders to research, inspire and affect clean energy progress statewide.