



NC SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NCSEA STATEMENT ON REGULATORY REFORM BILL H760

RALEIGH, N.C., APRIL 30, 2015 – Early this morning, the NC House of Representatives voted to advance an omnibus Regulatory Reform bill, H760 that includes changes to clean energy policies such as North Carolina's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (REPS). This year, the clean energy requirement in the REPS increased from 3% to 6% of annual retail electric sales. Prior to the next scheduled REPS increase in 2018, the House majority felt it was necessary to freeze the utilities' REPS compliance at 6% while it examines if modifications are needed in order to account for renewable energy and energy efficiency growth and potential needs under new federal requirements.

NCSEA does not support the freeze of the REPS in H760, and does not believe it was necessary to accomplish the goals of clean energy opponents. However, if the bill eventually becomes law, we are cautiously optimistic that this could be an opportunity to ensure that renewable energy and energy efficiency have ample opportunity to compete in North Carolina's highly regulated, monopoly-controlled market moving forward. NCSEA remains a strong supporter of the REPS and the cost savings it is generating for ratepayers.

While the freeze and other changes to the REPS are a threat to the clean energy economy in North Carolina, we are pleased to see two key clean energy provisions preserved. NCSEA's members and allies should be reassured that unlike earlier versions of this legislation, the bill does not reduce the threshold for standard contracts for qualifying facilities, nor does it change the methodology for avoided cost calculations.

North Carolina's clean energy policies have consistently come under attack in recent years, and in fighting these attacks, NCSEA and our allies have been limited in our ability to move the energy policy conversation forward. House Bill 760 temporarily addresses the concerns of clean energy opponents, and will allow NCSEA to advocate for other priorities like the Renewable Energy Investment Tax Credit, access to electric usage data and free-market opportunities like third party sales of electricity.

For more information on how REPS helps to support North Carolina's clean energy industry, please visit the [REPS fact sheet](#).

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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.