



**For Immediate Release:** Tuesday, November 19, 2013

**Contact:** Lowell Sachs, [lowell@energync.org](mailto:lowell@energync.org), 919-832-7601 Ext.117

## **NC Senator Apodaca Honored for Leadership on Clean Energy**

*‘Legislator of the Year’ award recognizes valuable contribution to the growth of North Carolina’s clean energy economy*

**RALEIGH, N.C.** — The NC Sustainable Energy Association (NCSEA) presented North Carolina State Senator Tom Apodaca (R-Henderson) with a ‘Legislator of the Year’ award for the Senator’s strong defense of clean energy policies that have brought benefit to North Carolina’s businesses, citizens and economy. NCSEA presented the award at the Raleigh Convention Center during its annual Making Energy Work conference. Each year, NCSEA honors those who demonstrate outstanding innovation and leadership in growing North Carolina’s clean energy industries.

“Senator Apodaca played a critical leadership role within the General Assembly on behalf of the state’s entire clean energy community by helping to defend economically beneficial clean energy policies,” said NCSEA Executive Director Ivan Urlaub. “His stance in support of some of the state’s most effective clean energy policies like the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (REPS) not only demonstrated strategic vision, it safeguarded the jobs and investment dollars that clean energy is currently bringing to communities around the state.”

North Carolina is emerging as a leader in the nation in creating innovative programs and infrastructure to drive clean energy development. According to a recent study by RTI International and La Capra Associates, over the last six years, the total economic benefit to North Carolina from clean energy project development is estimated to be \$1.7 billion. In 2012 North Carolina ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the U.S. for annual installed solar photovoltaic (PV) capacity compared to 8<sup>th</sup> in 2011. In addition, PV systems of 1 MW or greater experienced a dramatic growth in nameplate capacity of 849% from 2011-2012. The state’s clean energy policies, including those defended by Sen. Apodaca during the most recent legislative session, have played an important role in this development.

### ***About the NC Sustainable Energy Association:***

*Founded in 1978, the NC Sustainable Energy Association (NCSEA) is a 501(c)3 non-profit membership organization of individuals, businesses, government and non-profits working to ensure a sustainable future by promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency in North Carolina through education, public policy and economic development. Learn more at [www.energync.org](http://www.energync.org)*

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