

Petition for Meeting North Carolina’s New Electricity Demand Through Energy Efficiency and Renewable Power Generation

Whereas using electricity more efficiently and conservatively reduces our dependence on foreign energy sources, keeping our country from fighting wars over increasingly scarce oil and natural gas reserves,

Whereas the use of low-cost energy efficiency reduces exposure to mercury contamination from coal fired power plants, thus protecting the health of North Carolinians who depend upon fish from our rivers and streams to feed their families,

Whereas applying energy efficiency reduces emissions of particulate matter due to burning fossil fuels in power plants, improving the lives of those 700,000 North Carolinians affected by respiratory disease and asthma,

Whereas the adoption of a Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) requiring use of renewable sources such as wind, solar and landfill methane will work toward economic and social justice by creating jobs and avoiding rising costs of buying and transporting coal and natural gas from other states,

Whereas a robust Public Benefits Fund will provide energy improvement measures to protect all North Carolinians from rising electricity rates,

Be it resolved that North Carolina’s elected and appointed leaders, NC Utilities Commission and Gov. Michael Easley shall make a long-term commitment to require implementation of measurable and verifiable energy efficiency on the same scale as power plants before deciding on proposals by electric utilities to build more nuclear and coal fired power plants.

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