



June 15, 2021

The Honorable Roy Cooper
Governor of North Carolina
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699

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

The Honorable Tim Moore
Speaker of the House
16 W. Jones Street, Rm 2304
Raleigh, NC 27601

Re: Business Support for Advancement of Clean Energy Policies in 2021

Dear Governor Cooper, President Pro Tempore Berger, and Speaker Moore:

As the North Carolina General Assembly reconvenes for the 2021 session, we write to encourage lawmakers to support, pass, and sign into law meaningful clean energy legislation this year.

We are businesses with operations, employees, and business interests across North Carolina. Like many hundreds of businesses across the country, we have made public commitments to reduce emissions, become more energy efficient, and scale up our use of clean, renewable energy. Clean energy helps businesses save money, reduce risks, stay competitive, and meet the expectations of our customers, employees, and shareholders.

North Carolina was an early leader on clean energy, beginning with bipartisan passage of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (REPS) in 2007. As a hub of industry and technological innovation, North Carolina can maintain its competitive advantage as a clean energy and economic leader through new, forward-thinking policies.

We encourage lawmakers to foster a modern, clean, equitable and affordable energy economy by supporting and implementing proposals that:

- **Increase customer access to renewable energy**, including a range of procurement options including onsite and rooftop energy, community solar, and access to utility-scale solar and wind projects at the wholesale market level;
- **Create certainty and predictability** to ensure clean energy investments can be made with confidence;
- **Help customers finance renewable energy and energy efficiency projects**, so higher upfront costs do not become a barrier to unlocking significant long-term savings;

- **Incentivize electric utilities** to decarbonize and continue to invest in renewable energy, energy efficiency and battery storage, while retiring outdated, uneconomic and underperforming assets;
- **Incentivize and build an enabling environment for zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) and public transportation** that increases accessibility and prioritizes charging infrastructure and programs to reduce ZEV costs and increase purchasing options.

This year, North Carolina lawmakers have a unique opportunity to build upon the robust clean energy stakeholder discussions conducted over the past yearⁱ and to drive economic recovery in the aftermath of COVID-19. Strong, decisive clean energy policies would signal that North Carolina is “open for business”—thereby attracting in-state investments, creating jobs, and helping businesses access additional opportunities to save money and strengthen their competitive advantage.

As companies that operate in multiple jurisdictions, we would be happy to share our experiences with policies and programs that have been successful in other states. Please do not hesitate to call on us if we can provide additional information or answer any questions.

Thank you for helping North Carolina embrace clean energy innovation and prepare for the future.

Sincerely,

Biogen
Burt’s Bees
Cree Lighting
DSM North America
Gaia Herbs
IKEA Retail U.S.
Mars Incorporated

McDonald’s
Nestlé
New Belgium Brewing
Schneider Electric
Sierra Nevada Brewing Co.
Unilever
VF Corporation

More about the company signatories:

At **Biogen**, our mission is clear: we are pioneers in neuroscience. Biogen discovers, develops and delivers worldwide innovative therapies for people living with serious neurological and neurodegenerative diseases as well as related therapeutic adjacencies. In North Carolina, Biogen’s Research Triangle Park manufacturing operations employ more than 1,900 individuals. Biogen achieved carbon neutrality in 2014 and last year we launched Healthy Climate, Healthy Lives, a new initiative which includes a commitment to be entirely fossil-fuel free across our operations by 2040. As part of this initiative, Biogen has also committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 35 percent by 2030 and to convert new leases for our entire fleet of 1,500 vehicles to fully electric by 2025. We also have a benefit that supports our employees in choosing 100% renewable electricity at home and transition from fossil fuel to electric home goods.

Burt’s Bees® has been offering distinctive earth-friendly, natural health and beauty care products for over 30 years. Born in Maine and planted in North Carolina, Burt’s Bees operates with The Greater Good™ top of mind. The business has been CarbonNeutral® certified since 2013, investing in projects that reduce carbon pollution in the atmosphere to offset the carbon emissions from facilities, transportation, employee travel and more. Burt’s Bees has kept its operational waste out of landfills

since 2010, diverting to compost, recycling centers or waste-to-energy facilities. By 2025, Burt's Bees is committed to be powered by 100% renewable electricity through virtual power purchase agreements. The brand is also committed to achieve 100% recyclable, reusable or compostable packaging and to reduce use of virgin materials (plastic and fiber) by 33% by 2025.

Cree Lighting is a market-leading innovator of Indoor, Outdoor, and Consumer Bulb LED lighting. We are uniquely positioned to innovate new ways in which lighting will serve as a platform for emerging technologies and capabilities that will enrich lives, improve society and safeguard our planet.

DSM is a global purpose-led, science-based company specializing in Nutrition, Health & Sustainable Living. Our purpose is to create brighter lives *for all*. We achieve it by using all the scientific and innovation power at our disposal to tackle some of the world's greatest challenges — creating value for customers, shareholders, our people, and society-at-large. DSM has set a target to achieve a 30% absolute reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, which we plan to achieve through our Internal Carbon Price, purchasing 100% renewable energy (with a goal of achieving 75% renewable energy by 2030), and improving our energy efficiency. In North Carolina, DSM manufactures Dyneema®, an innovative ultra-strong, ultra-light material that has inspired industries to transform the performance of countless products and applications, in Greenville and Stanley, NC.

Gaia Herbs is a vertically integrated herbal supplement company nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Western North Carolina. As a certified B Corporation, Gaia Herbs is committed to using business as a force for good in this world, and to ultimately connect people, plants & the planet to create healing. The company's 350-acre Certified Organic farm and headquarters in Brevard, NC utilizes regenerative agriculture to maintain biodiversity and protect the health of our local ecosystem. Other commitments include Net Zero operations by 2030, and certified Zero Waste by 2024. Working across 30 different countries and over 200 ingredients, Gaia Herbs is dedicated to implementing projects that will foster ecological conservation of North Carolina and improve the quality of the earth.

At **IKEA**, our vision is to create a better everyday life for the many people. We do this by offering well-designed, functional and affordable, high-quality home furnishing, produced with care for people and the environment. IKEA Retail U.S. operates 52 retail locations in 27 states, including our location Charlotte, NC, where we employ approximately 325 coworkers. As a global business with the capacity to make a large impact, we know that we have a responsibility to make that impact a positive one. IKEA has committed to a goal of being powered by 100% renewable energy while increasing energy efficiency by 2025. IKEA is also working to make all home deliveries zero emissions by 2025 and to be climate positive by 2030.

Mars Incorporated is a private, family-owned company headquartered in McLean, Virginia, with annual net sales of more than \$35 billion. Mars' portfolio of brands offers quality and value to consumers around the world and includes PEDIGREE®, WHISKAS®, M&M'S®, SNICKERS®, MARS®, EXTRA®, ORBIT®, BEN'S ORIGINAL® and many more. Mars set a goal to achieve 100% renewable energy for our operations by 2040, and set a science-based target to cut carbon emissions across our value chain 27% by 2025 and 67% by 2050. In North Carolina, Mars operates 74 pet hospitals throughout the state and a petcare factory in Henderson, employing over 1850 people.

McDonald's is continuing to make progress toward its global climate action target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions related to McDonald's restaurants and offices by 36% by 2030 (from a 2015

base year), including its recent investment in five renewable energy projects will add will add about 1,130 megawatts of renewable energy to the power grid. These five projects are located in Texas, Illinois, Oklahoma, North Carolina and Ohio.

New Belgium Brewing is recognized as a leader in sustainability and social responsibility. Based in Asheville, North Carolina and Fort Collins, Colorado, New Belgium is the 4th largest craft brewery in the U.S., and has been working to prove that business can be a force for good for thirty years. New Belgium is a Certified B Corp, was the first brewery to join 1% for the Planet, and proudly brews North America's first certified carbon neutral beer, Fat Tire Amber Ale. New Belgium generates on site solar and biogas energy, and is committed to being carbon neutral across our entire operations by 2030.

Nestlé is the world's largest food & beverage company. We unlock the power of food to enhance quality of life for everyone, today and for generations to come. Nestlé recently announced plans to open a new pet food facility in Eden, NC, which is scheduled to open in 2022. Nestlé is committed to halve our greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and achieve net zero emissions by 2050. As part of this goal, Nestlé is committed to achieve 100% renewable electricity at all of our global facilities by 2025, increase the efficiency of our operations, and shift our vehicle fleet away from fossil fuel-powered transport to vehicles with lower or zero tailpipe emissions.

Schneider Electric provides energy and automation digital solutions for efficiency and sustainability, combining world-leading energy technologies, real-time automation, software and services into integrated solutions for Homes, Buildings, Data Centers, Infrastructure and Industries. At Schneider, we believe access to energy and digital is a basic human right. We empower all to make the most of their energy and resources, ensuring Life Is On everywhere, for everyone, at every moment. Schneider Electric has made a commitment to achieve 100% renewable energy, double its energy productivity, shift 100% of our company fleet to electric vehicles, and be carbon-neutral—all by 2030. The company operates in 115 countries and employs 135,000 worldwide.

Sierra Nevada Brewing Co is a pioneer in the craft beer industry and also a recognized leader in sustainable operations. The company is home to the largest solar installation in craft beer and continues to invest in clean and renewable energy by using biogas from onsite wastewater treatment to fuel microturbines and purchasing renewable energy via NC GreenPower. With breweries in Chico, CA and Mills River, NC, Sierra Nevada is committed to crafting the highest quality beers in the most responsible way.

Unilever is one of the world's largest consumer goods companies. Every day, 2.5 billion people use Unilever products to feel good, look good and get more out of life. With more than 400 brands including Breyers, Dove, Hellmann's, Lipton, Knorr, and Q-tips, Unilever has a unique opportunity to work with consumers to make sustainable living commonplace. We have an ambitious plan to eliminate direct greenhouse gas emissions from our operations by 2030 and to achieve net zero emissions from all our products by 2039. We're a founding signatory of the RE100 global campaign for businesses committed to using 100% renewable electricity and we're transforming the way our factories run by investing in new technologies and increasing energy efficiency. Unilever is also expanding the use of electric vehicles (EVs) in our fleet worldwide. In North Carolina, Unilever employs 320 people at our personal care product manufacturing facility in Raeford, NC.

With a broad portfolio of global, iconic brands such as *Vans*®, *The North Face*®, and *Timberland*®, **VF** is committed to be more than just an apparel and footwear company. The company strives to be a force for good in the world. VF committed to use 100% renewable energy across our owned and operated facilities globally by 2025. By 2030, the company also committed to decarbonize its value chain in line with our science-based targets by 2030—through energy efficiency, renewable energy and reducing our supply chain’s footprint—and to achieve completely carbon-neutral operations by 2050. In North Carolina, VF operates a corporate office in Greensboro.

For more information or to contact any of the company signatories, please contact Brianna Esteves at esteves@ceres.org.

ⁱ Beginning in December 2019, the Department of Environmental Quality, Duke Nicholas Institute, UNC Center for Climate, Energy, Environment and Economics, Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP), and Rocky Mountain Institute gathered stakeholders from electric utilities, industrial groups, ratepayer advocates and clean energy advocates to discuss, analyze and provide agreeable policy recommendations to build an affordable, clean, reliable and equitable energy system. We applaud this leadership and encourage lawmakers to work together to continue these discussions and take action.