

September 23, 2020

Attn: Kim Campbell, Chief Clerk
North Carolina Utilities Commission
4325 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4325

Re: Docket E-2 Sub 1257: Proposed 5 MW Solar Facility in Buncombe County

Dear Ms. Campbell,

We are writing in strong support of the application by Duke Energy Progress (DEP) for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct the 5 MW Woodfin Solar Facility on a retired landfill in Buncombe County, NC. We are a group of renewable energy advocates and organizations that comprise the Western North Carolina Renewables Coalition.

This innovative project is in direct service of Buncombe County's resolution to use 100% renewable energy by 2030, as well as Governor Cooper's Executive Order 80 to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions at least 40% below 2005 levels by 2025.

The proposed 5 MW Woodfin Solar Facility would save an estimated 4,000 to 6,000 tons of carbon emissions annually, depending on the mix of fuels utilized by DEP. The proposed installation on a closed landfill is an excellent example of creative land use. Given our mountainous topography here in Buncombe County, siting a solar facility on flat and already-cleared land makes eminent sense.

We hope that this will be one of many such initiatives for solar energy projects as our region moves away from fossil fuels and toward a renewable energy future. We urge you to approve DEP's application and help us advance renewable energy for Buncombe County.

Sincerely,

The Western North Carolina Renewables Coalition

Contact:

Eliza Stokes and Beatrice Nathan, Co-Chairs
wncrenewables@gmail.com