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December 16, 2019

North Carolina Utilities Commission  
4326 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-4300

Re: Friesian Holdings CPCN, Docket Number: EMP-105 Sub 0

Dear North Carolina Utilities Commission:

The Friesian Holdings Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) has recently come to the attention of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners as a matter of material importance for the continued growth of solar energy, a beneficial local industry in Bladen County.

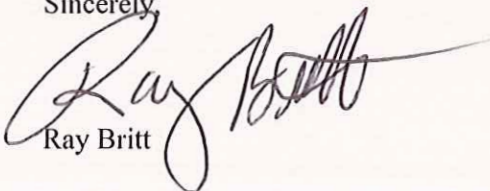
Bladen County is home to over two hundred megawatts of operating solar farms, and these projects constitute a meaningful boost to capital investment and reliable tax revenues for the County. The projects also provide an opportunity for construction workforce development. Importantly, these benefits have been realized with no significant extension of infrastructure or other public services at the expense of the County. Over the recent years of solar development activity, our staff and elected officials have gained familiarity with solar farms, and developed successful policies for proper permitting and siting in harmony with our rural community.

Solar is a natural complement to our strong local agriculture sector, offering an opportunity for traditional farms to diversify income with solar land use. In turn, we offer some of the best land for constructing solar in North Carolina, providing the general benefit of low solar energy prices.

We understand that the Friesian project includes a plan to upgrade 60+ miles of Duke Energy's transmission infrastructure at a cost of about \$225 million, which will likely be included in Duke Energy's future rate base. We have reviewed the December 6<sup>th</sup> letters from Duke Energy in the Friesian CPCN docket, and see that the Friesian upgrades are the best way to continue Bladen County solar investment in a timely manner. These upgrades are necessary for our community to participate in the renewable energy transition planned by Duke Energy and the State of North Carolina.

Accordingly, on December 16, 2019, the Bladen County Board of Commissioners formally expressed its support for the CPCN requested by Friesian Holdings, LLC (Docket: EMP-105 sub 0). We respectfully ask that you approve the Friesian Holdings CPCN.

Sincerely,

  
Ray Britt