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E-100 Sub 147

**Morris, Paige**

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**From:** Mark Fleming <mark@cleanenergyconservatives.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2017 5:31 PM  
**To:** Statements  
**Subject:** E-100 (Community Solar)...comment attached  
**Attachments:** Community Solar Letter to NCUC.pdf

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**OCT 31 2017**

**Clerk's Office  
N.C. Utilities Commission**

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Mark Fleming, President & CEO  
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Dear Commissioners,

At Conservatives for Clean Energy, we are supportive of the opportunity presented in the recently enacted H 589 to expand access to solar energy in North Carolina through community solar. We encourage Duke Energy to continue its commitment to growing the market for cost-effective energy and expanding customer choice.

We recognize the financial benefits of community solar, and we are proud that North Carolina is a national leader in offering competitive costs for solar technologies. North Carolina is now ranked second in the country for cumulative capacity of utility-scale solar and solar costs are on track to be the cheapest source of energy in the state. In 2016, the North Carolina solar industry employed 34,294 full-time employees and generated \$6.7 billion in revenue for the state. Community solar provides an additional, lower cost option for customers to take part in our growing solar market.

Families and businesses in North Carolina are increasingly choosing solar energy, and in doing so are creating local jobs, improving resiliency, and providing cost savings. Over 5,800 households and businesses have installed solar energy systems. However, solar PV energy is still inaccessible for many households who do not have an appropriate roof or cannot afford the upfront cost of solar. Community solar is a great option for many of these customers throughout North Carolina who desire access to solar energy, and they see community solar as an opportunity to lower their bills, invest in a growing industry, and take control of their energy future.

As the NC Utility Commission considers proposals for the design of North Carolina's community solar offering, we hope you will focus on a program that gives deference to the following, to the maximum extent allowed by legislation:

1. Economic benefits for participants over the course of the program;
2. Opportunities to grow North Carolina's solar industry;
3. Ease of access for participants through low upfront cost;
4. Consideration of locating community solar in strategic locations that best service all customers; and
5. Commitment to maintaining competition in the marketplace

Thank you for your consideration.

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