

## **Conservative Leaders in North Carolina Cite RILA and ITI Study in Promoting Clean Energy Options**

March 10, 2017— A study released in January by the Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA) and the Information Technology Industry Council (ITI) is generating a strong push among conservative lawmakers in North Carolina to promote more clean energy options across the state. The national study affirmed the strong link between a state having sufficient low-cost clean energy accessibility and successfully encouraging investment by existing businesses and attracting other companies to relocate.

“People in my district are looking for more private sector job prospects. By creating a more attractive array of clean energy options for business and industry, we will attract more businesses and high-paying jobs to our area,” said North Carolina Senator Jeff Tarte (R-Mecklenburg).

“North Carolina is considered a leader in terms of large scale solar,” said State Representative Chris Malone (R-Wake). “However, when it comes to permitting rooftop solar panels for commercial use, there is room for growth. In 2015, a third-party sales bill was introduced that would increase clean energy options for businesses, including access to rooftop solar. Ten major companies with a footprint in our state voiced their support for the bill. Business leaders want a regulatory environment that allows for more choices.”

“Renewable forms of energy, such as solar and wind, are more cost competitive than ever. Now is the time to take advantage of this,” said State Representative Linda Hunt Williams (R-Wake). “Our state needs a regulatory environment that is friendly to a more diversified energy mix if we hope to compete with other states.”

North Carolina was ranked 30<sup>th</sup> out of all 50 states in the corporate clean energy procurement index, according to the study. The report recommends that North Carolina make onsite third-party power purchase agreements (PPAs) 100% legal to capture the economic development benefits that third-party distributed generation ownership could bring. North Carolinians are looking to lawmakers to improve clean energy access across the state.

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Conservatives for Clean Energy (CCE) educates the public on the benefits of clean and renewable energy sources, with a particular focus on the economic benefits clean energy brings to local communities.

The Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA) is the trade association of the world’s

largest and most innovative retail companies. RILA members include more than 200 retailers, product manufacturers, and service suppliers, which together account for more than \$1.5 trillion in annual sales, millions of American jobs, and more than 100,000 stores, manufacturing facilities, and distribution centers domestically and abroad.  
[www.rila.org](http://www.rila.org)

The Information Technology Industry Council (ITI) is the global voice of the tech sector, celebrating its 100th year in 2016 as the premier advocacy and policy organization for the world's leading innovation companies. In both the U.S. and in countries around the world, ITI navigates the relationships between policymakers, companies, and non-governmental organizations, providing creative solutions that advance the development and use of technology around the world. [www.itic.org](http://www.itic.org)

Clean Edge, Inc., founded in 2000, is the world's first research and advisory firm devoted to the clean-tech sector. The company benchmarks and tracks the clean-energy economy by delivering stock indexes, utility and consumer surveys, regional (state and metro) leadership tracking, and custom analysis across the clean-tech value chain. These services provide companies, investors, NGOs, and governments with timely research, trending analysis, and actionable insights. [www.cleantech.com](http://www.cleantech.com)