

January 15, 2021

The Honorable Charlotte Mitchell
NC Utilities Commission, Chair
4325 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4300

Christopher Ayers
NC Public Staff, Executive Director
4326 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4300

**Re: Docket Nos. E-2, Sub 1197 & E-7, Sub 1195
Order Establishing Electric Transportation Collaborative Stakeholder Process**

Dear Chair Mitchell and Director Ayers,

On behalf of the Southeast Sustainability Directors Network's (SSDN) members, which is a network of 80 city and county governments in 10 states across the southeastern United States that works together to advance sustainability initiatives in the region, **we respectfully request that local North Carolina governments be included in the recently-created electric transportation (ET) collaborative stakeholder process.**

While we are encouraged by the Commission's determination for Duke Energy Carolinas, Duke Energy Progress, and the North Carolina Public Staff to convene stakeholder meetings, the order implementing these meetings only required invitations to the stakeholder collaborative for intervenors in the Duke Energy ET Pilot Dockets. We view this new convening as an important opportunity for local governments to provide unique input and feedback regarding potential future ET pilot programs to Duke Energy, participating stakeholders, and the NC Utilities Commission.

SSDN's membership includes 21 local governments, led by sustainability staff, from throughout North Carolina¹ and we regularly engage in direct conversations with utilities and various stakeholders to help ensure that clean energy programs, which directly impact our communities' citizens and/or their governmental operations, are developed and implemented as effectively as possible.

In addition to this stakeholder process participation request, SSDN would also like to applaud the NC Utilities Commission and intervenors in reaching *"general agreement that there are many potential benefits to electric ratepayers and society at large in the transition from gasoline- and*

¹ SSDN's NC members include: Asheville, Apex, Boone, Buncombe County, Carrboro, Cary, Chapel Hill, Charlotte, Chatham County, Davidson, Durham, Durham County, Henderson County, Hillsborough, Mecklenburg County, Morrisville, New Bern, Orange County, Raleigh, Wilmington, and Winston-Salem.

diesel-powered vehicles to electric transportation,” and the Commission’s approval of the Public Level 2 Charging program (as proposed) and limited versions of the Multi-family Dwelling Charging, Direct Current Fast Charging, and EV School Bus Charging programs in its November 24, 2021 order.

Increasingly, local governments in North Carolina and across the southeast and are establishing long-term sustainability goals to reduce emissions, scale investment in clean energy, create economic opportunities and jobs, and deliver immediate public health benefits to their residents and businesses. For instance, many cities, towns and counties in North Carolina are adopting goals to achieve significant greenhouse gas emission reductions and/or to power their communities with 100% renewable energy.²

In order to reach these goals, local governments are implementing numerous initiatives and strategies, which include efforts to advance programs, plans and policies that expand the use of zero emission vehicles and increase electric vehicle charging infrastructure across all regions of North Carolina. Therefore, our local governments would play an informative and collaborative role in this new electric transportation stakeholder process.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Respectfully,

Meg Jamison

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cc: Dianna Downey, NC Public Staff
Kendrick C. Fentress, Associate General Counsel, Duke Energy Corporation
All parties of record

² 60% of SSDN North Carolina members have adopted a greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation target for their city or county operations and 40% have adopted a GHG mitigation target for their community.