



**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR**

January 24, 2022

The Hon. Vickie Sawyer
North Carolina Senate
300 N Salisbury St
Rm 312
Raleigh, NC 27603

The Hon. Tom McInnis
300 N Salisbury St
Rm 314
Raleigh, NC 27603
North Carolina Senate

The Hon. Paul Newton
North Carolina Senate
300 N Salisbury St
Rm 300-C
Raleigh, NC 27603

Senator Sawyer, Senator McInnis, and Senator Newton:

Thank you for your interest in Executive Order 246 (EO 246), which moves North Carolina toward a clean, equitable economy that creates jobs and economic growth while protecting the health and well-being of all North Carolinians. It appears that you have several misconceptions that I would be happy to address.

First, I would like to clarify that where H951 applies specifically to the electricity sector (regulated utilities in particular), the focus and related goals of EO 246 are economywide. EO 246 does not modify or attempt to modify any of the components of H951.

Our bipartisan success with H951 will ensure continued access to reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy. Meeting H951's ambitious emissions goals and becoming a national leader in clean energy will help our state combat climate change and recruit high paying jobs. We're already seeing the results of this forward-looking legislation but there is more to do.

Now it is time to build on our progress in the power sector by planning for the oncoming transformation of transportation in North Carolina. As you have no doubt noticed, the market is rapidly shifting toward electric vehicles, providing an opportunity to dramatically reduce vehicle emissions and create thousands of new advanced manufacturing jobs across the country. Toyota's decision to invest \$1.29 billion in their first automotive battery manufacturing plant at the Greensboro-Randolph Megasite is just the latest example of how North Carolinians benefit when the state partners with the private sector to embrace the global transition to electric vehicles.

I expect North Carolina to continue to be a leader in this area, meet the needs of our people and ensure our state is open for business in the modern economy.

However, this shift will also require a hard look at our existing infrastructure and plan to transition to future needs. It has been Governor Cooper's Executive Orders that have sparked administrative, legislative, and private sector change in North Carolina's emerging clean energy economy. We would love to have your input in this process as the legislature will need to make some difficult decisions on transportation infrastructure.

Achieving EO 246's goal of 1.25 million ZEVs by 2030 will involve a significant expansion of our charging network, and the state is already working with the federal government and private sector to expand the availability of charging infrastructure throughout the state. This includes the distribution of funds from the VW settlement and 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. North Carolina's transition to a clean transportation sector must benefit residents across the state, including those in rural communities, low-income households, and communities of color.

This transition also must be carefully implemented through meaningful engagement with businesses, local governments, advocates, and the general public to ensure the transition is fair, least-cost, and economically sustainable. That is why EO 246 directs the Department of Transportation to develop a Clean Transportation Plan working closely with stakeholders over the next year. Transitioning to electric vehicles will be a leading strategy, complemented by other methods such as reducing vehicle miles traveled, investing further in resilient infrastructure, ensuring equitable access to clean mobility options, increasing availability of non-vehicle transportation modes, and transitioning to zero- and low-emission fuels. As you've noted, the system for funding transportation needs modernization to ensure a sustainable revenue stream for our various transportation modes.

We look forward to continued dialogue and engagement to secure a reliable, affordable, and clean economy for North Carolinians for generations to come.

Regards,



Dionne Delli-Gatti
North Carolina Director for Clean Energy
Office of Governor Roy Cooper