



Roy Cooper, Governor
State of North Carolina

GOVERNOR ROY COOPER OBJECTIONS AND VETO MESSAGE:

Senate Bill 678, "AN ACT TO (I) DEFINE "CLEAN ENERGY," WHICH INCLUDES "RENEWABLE ENERGY" AND NUCLEAR AND FUSION ENERGY; (II) ELIMINATE LANGUAGE IMPEDING CPCN ISSUANCE FOR NUCLEAR FACILITIES; (III) MODIFY CLOSURE DEADLINES FOR CERTAIN COAL COMBUSTION RESIDUALS SURFACE IMPOUNDMENTS; (IV) MODIFY APPLICATIONS FEES FOR DAM CONSTRUCTION, REPAIR, ALTERATION, OR REMOVAL UNDER THE DAM SAFETY ACT; (V) REQUIRE APPROVAL BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS TO CEDE OR TRANSFER CONTROL OVER A PUBLIC ENTERPRISE TO A NONGOVERNMENTAL ENTITY; (VI) PROHIBIT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FROM ENTERING NONDISCLOSURE AGREEMENTS IN ORDER TO RESTRICT ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS SUBJECT TO DISCLOSURE UNDER THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT; AND (VII) ESTABLISH EMPLOYEE CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION EXEMPTIONS FOR THE UTILITIES COMMISSION AND PUBLIC STAFF."

North Carolina is on a bipartisan path to removing carbon from our electric power sector in the most cost-effective way. This bill attempts to diverge from that path by trying to put construction of traditional power plants, and higher profits for the utility companies, over lower-cost solutions like energy efficiency. North Carolina should consider all pathways to decarbonize, rather than putting a thumb on the scale in favor of building new conventional generation.

Therefore, I veto the bill.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy Cooper".

Roy Cooper
Governor

The bill, having been vetoed, is returned to the Clerk of the North Carolina Senate on this the 2nd day of October 2023, at 2:32 p.m. for reconsideration by that body.

The Capitol Building, Raleigh, NC 27602
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RECEIVED FROM GOVERNOR

Date Oct. 2, 2023

Time 2:32 p.m.

Signed Sarah Holland