



CAROLINAS GATEWAY PARTNERSHIP

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June 15, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.,
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am pleased to offer this letter of support for the application for the US DOT 2023 Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant. The application to your team is being presented by our Power NC group—Power NC is the acronym for Providing Opportunities for Workforce Development and Energy Readiness in North Carolina.

My organization, the Carolinas Gateway Partnership, is an economic development recruiting and retention group focused on a very rural part of North Carolina. We bring new tax investment and jobs to our agriculturally based economy in Edgecombe and Nash Counties. We are very pleased that our 2,100 acre Megasite—the Kingsboro Business Park has been identified as the most shovel-ready park in the North Carolina and southeastern USA.

This recognition and our availability of land, people, and resources are bringing us a rich stream of very large projects—42 as of June 1st. Most of these projects are electric vehicle (EV) battery projects and solar panels manufacturers. Consequently, as America strives for energy independence and over environmental quality improvement, North Carolina and Edgecombe County are doing their part to meet that goal.

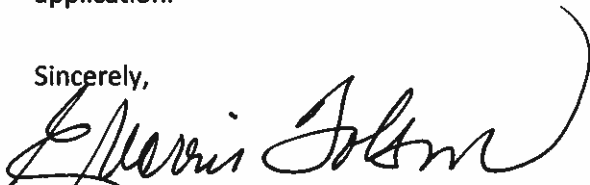
We believe we will win one or two of these EV battery projects in 2023. Therefore, one of our challenges to maximizing the ROI from these energy initiatives is developing our workforce to overcome the skill gaps between a standard advanced manufacturing and agricultural economy and the emerging clean energy economy where special qualifications may be needed to manufacture batteries and eventually install and maintain the explosion of charging station infrastructure that will be needed to serve the EV automotive segment.

We are excited about the potential provided for our economy from these clean energy initiatives. To capture that revenue stream and maximize the ROI for our citizens, we are already investing heavily in

workforce development and obviously as more electric vehicles show up on our highways, charging stations become an absolute necessity.

This grant will allow us in North Carolina to accelerate our efforts to serve the traveling public and more strongly support America's clean energy. That clearly is a win win situation and we appreciate greatly your efforts to drive these energy programs and the CFI program in particular. Thank you for the opportunity to work with you and your team. We ask for your positive consideration of this grand application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Norris Tolson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

E. Norris Tolson
CEO/President