

June 15, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Regional Transportation Alliance, the voice of the business community on transportation in North Carolina's Research Triangle region, I am writing this letter of support for the **Providing Opportunities for Workforce development and Energy Readiness in North Carolina (powerNC)** application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) 2023 Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Community Grant Program.

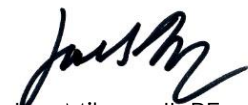
This project reflects a collaborative partnership between NCDOT, STEPs4GROWTH, and the NC Community College System to install new electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at 10 community colleges across the state. This new infrastructure will equitably expand community-based EV charging and improve access while also supporting high-quality workforce development programs.

One of the primary challenges facing North Carolina's clean energy transition is the lack of convenient, affordable, reliable, and equitable networks of EV charging stations, particularly in North Carolina's rural areas. The US Department of Commerce funded a four-year, \$23.7 million comprehensive clean energy workforce development project called STEPs4GROWTH.

This initiative will leverage this investment to expand public access to EV charging solutions while providing students at the participating schools opportunities for hands-on experience and instruction, under the supervision of certified professionals, during to the Project's development phase activities, construction and installation, and ongoing operations and maintenance.

The RTA business coalition thanks you for your consideration of the **powerNC grant application for CFI program funding**. Please contact me at 919.664.7065 or joe@letsgetmoving.org with questions.

Sincerely,



Joe Milazzo II, PE
Executive Director,
Regional Transportation Alliance

cc Jay Irby, RTA chair