Jeff Jackson Attorney General 114 West Edenton Street Raleigh, NC 27603

## Dear Attorney General Jackson:

We write to express our concerns about the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) attempt to end the Solar for All program, including terminating North Carolina's grant. We ask you to use every legal tool to push back against this action that will harm businesses like ours across North Carolina.

In April 2024, the EPA announced that North Carolina would receive \$156 million under the Solar for All program. This announcement followed a competitive application process, during which the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) developed a program to expand access to low-cost distributed energy technologies. EPA awarded funds to DEQ to lower energy costs for thousands of people across North Carolina. Since then, DEQ worked with EPA and other partners to ensure that this investment has the structure, guardrails, and oversight to ensure effective use of taxpayer dollars. The Solar for All program is in line with the Trump Administration's stated commitment to lowering energy costs, and the funding has already been obligated. NC DEQ, along with its coalition partners (the NC Clean Energy Fund, the NC Clean Energy Technology Center, and Advanced Energy), have an award agreement with the EPA obligating \$156 million to the state to design and implement North Carolina's Solar for All program. Design and planning are well underway in the state, and we are excited to help implement the program.

North Carolina's Solar for All program is a historic investment in energy affordability and economic development. Thanks to this program, 12,500 households across the state would gain access to low-cost, reliable energy that would lower their electric bills—while boosting grid resilience and promoting energy independence. In addition, solar energy and energy storage bolster the grid during extreme weather events to the benefit of all electric customers. As North Carolina enters hurricane season, we need grid solutions like Solar for All more than ever.

EPA's proposed termination could not come at a worse time for electric customers and small businesses across North Carolina. In 2023, the NC Utilities Commission approved an 11.7% increase in rates in Duke Energy Carolinas territory and an 11.3% hike in Duke Energy Progress territory. Solar for All funds are designated for use in low-income, rural communities and are required to lower household electricity costs by 20 percent, leading to more than \$400 in electricity bill savings annually.

In addition, Solar for All is expected to create good-quality, local jobs in North Carolina, from contractors to construction workers – jobs that cannot be shipped overseas. Solar for All is already delivering benefits to states; we don't want North Carolina to miss out. Early investments in <a href="Moleon Records and Nevada">Georgia</a>, <a href="Michigan">Michigan</a>, and <a href="Moleon Records and Nevada">Nevada</a> demonstrate how this program will lower costs for families and help small businesses.

NC DEQ has already invested time, energy, and resources in developing our state's Solar for All program and ensuring that it delivers for people across North Carolina. Terminating DEQ's grant

would deny small businesses the benefits of those investments that they have planned for in anticipation of the program.

EPA's attempt to terminate North Carolina's Solar for All program is unjustified. We ask you to take action to protect North Carolina's electric customers and small businesses – and we thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Doug Ager, CEO & Co-Founder, Sugar Hollow Solar

Aaron Davis, CEO & Founder, Firefly Solar

Will Etheridge, CEO, Southern Energy Management

Dave Hollister, President, Sundance Power Systems

Joe Jensen, Director, Tyco Electric & Solar

Shasten Jolley, Manager, Greentech Renewables

Kathy Miller, CEO and Co-Founder, Yes Solar Solutions

Usman Noor, Co-Founder, 8MSolar

Robert Parker, Chief Operating Officer, Cape Fear Solar Systems

John Powell, CEO, Thompson & Son Energy Solutions

Cynthia Redwine, Co-Founder, Renewable Energy Design Group

Karl Stupka, President, NC Solar Now

Edward Wright, Co-Owner, Rhino Renewables Solar & Electric