

Federal Energy Policy Tour Report for SEPC

June 24 – 26, 2019

Washington, D.C.

Prepared by H.M. Hashemian

Preface:

This is a report of a trip to D.C. by a group of energy policy advisors including Hash Hashemian who serves on the State of Tennessee Energy Policy Council (SEPC). The trip was organized by an association of energy organizations of North and South Carolina referred to as E4 Carolinas. Hash is a member of E4 and travelled to DC to learn what he could that may benefit SEPC.

The group met with U.S. congressmen, senators, or their staff to present the latest on energy issues to inform the congress and obtain feedback.

Introduction:

In June 2019, the E4 Carolinas group organized a visit to Washington, D.C. to meet with the offices of several senators and congressmen to discuss the energy needs of the Carolina region. This report is intended to summarize these meetings.

Background:

E4 Carolinas was founded in 2012 and comprises 160+ “all in” energy companies in North and South Carolina. The organization connects stakeholders with industry experts such as suppliers and producers to facilitate discussions and collaborations in order to advance the energy future of the Carolina region.

Summary of Discussions:

Grid resiliency and modernization: There is concern regarding the durability of the power grid in the Carolinas when faced with harsh weather such as hurricanes or snow storms. Grid modernization is seen as the tool for building grid resiliency and reducing or eliminating power outages.

Electrification of vehicles: The expansion of the use of electric vehicles was a common topic of discussion during the visit. The group expressed the need to address certain obstacles to their adoption such as the development of charging infrastructure, advances in battery technology, consumer preference, and cost.

Environmentally-friendly power sources: North and South Carolina are already heavily dependent on clean energy sources with approximately 50% of their power coming from nuclear and solar power. In the future, the Carolinas are looking to invest in off-shore wind power to increase their clean energy profile and move further away from carbon-intensive power sources.

Consumer preferences: There is a balance in the Carolinas between moving towards clean energy sources while maintaining grid resiliency. Consumers want clean power, but they also want the lights on.

Meetings held with legislative representatives:

Monday, June 24, 2019

- Meghan Holland, Legislative Assistant in Congressman Ralph Norman's Office (R-SC5)
- Jim Warren, Legislative Assistant in Senator Tim Scott's Office (R – SC Junior)
- Scott Graber, Legislative Assistant/Counsel and Meghan Dorn, Legislative Aide in Senator Lindsey Graham's Office (R – SC Senior)
- Emily Saleeby, Energy Legislative Assistant in Congressman Joe Wilson's Office (R-SC2)

Tuesday, June 25, 2019

- John McDonald, Senior Legislative Assistant in Senator Richard Burr's Office (R – NC Senior)
- Ian Whitson, Environmental Legislative Assistant, and Perry Chappell, Energy Legislative Assistant in Congressman David Rouzer's Office (D-NC7)
- Elliott Giffin, Energy Legislative Assistant, and Shaun Taylor, Environmental Legislative Assistant in Congressman Richard Hudson's Office (R-NC8)
- Corey Brown, Legislative Assistant in Senator Thom Tillis's Office (R – NC Junior)
- Kyle Parker, Legislative Assistant (Energy) in Congressional Representative G.K. Butterfield's Office (D-NC1)

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

- Krista Wunsche, Legislative Correspondent in Congressman Joe Cunningham's Office (R-SC1)
- Mike Hacker, Energy Legislative Assistant, and Willie Lyles, Environmental Legislative Assistant in Congressman James Clyburn's Office (D-SC6)
- Elise Krekorian, Energy Legislative Assistant in Congressman Jeff Duncan's Office (R-SC3)
- Josh Wentzel, Energy Legislative Assistant in Congressman Mark Meadows' Office (R-NC11)