



May 15, 2017

The Honorable Tim Moore
Speaker of the House
North Carolina House of Representatives
16 W Jones Street, Room 2304
Raleigh, NC 27601

Re: Support for Funding, Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service (DEACS)

Dear Speaker Moore:

On behalf of the Glass Packaging Institute (GPI) and our member companies, I am offering our **strong support for continued funding of the Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service (DEACS)**, housed in the Department of Environmental Quality for the FY 2017-18 budget.

GPI is the North American trade association for the glass container manufacturers, glass recyclers, suppliers of materials, equipment and transportation to the industry. **Collectively, glass container manufacturing and glass recycling companies directly employ over 1,000 state residents at plants and facilities in Henderson, Winston-Salem and Wilson.**

In 2016, GPI joined DEACS in providing funding and support to two in-state materials recovery facilities (MRFs), aka recycling centers, to improve the quality and quantity of recycled glass destined for in-state glass container manufacturing plants. When higher levels of recycled glass are reused to make new bottles and jars, energy efficiency at the plants are improved, and associated greenhouse gas emissions are reduced.

Early results from the joint effort with DEACS are promising, with improved quantity and quality of recycled glass now supporting in-state glass container manufacturing plants, along with a reduction of recycled glass disposed of in landfills.

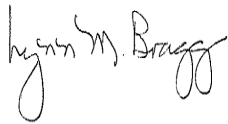
Statewide, DEACS provides the following benefits to North Carolina businesses and employees:

- DEACS studies have documented that 17,000 North Carolinians are employed directly by the state's recycling industry. Many of the largest recycling manufacturers are in rural counties, employing thousands of people that support local economies.

- DEACS helps its partners find market solutions for discarded materials, saving on landfill tip fees and solid waste costs. DEACS assistance helps manufacturers and other in-state employers achieve the goal of sending zero waste to landfills.
- DEACS assistance to rural communities has streamlined drop-off recycling programs, increasing material collection, while lowering costs and helping rural counties avoid landfill disposal charges.
- DEACS technical assistance and grants have helped hundreds of municipal curbside programs serving roughly 2 million households, significantly increasing the amount of recyclable material sold to North Carolina recycling facilities and manufacturers.

Thank you for considering the critical support that DEACS provides to in-state glass manufacturers, glass recycling companies and the broader recycling business community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn M. Bragg". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "L".

Lynn M. Bragg

President