

NORTH CAROLINA



MITCHELL COUNTY

Resolution No. 2017-1

**RESOLUTION**

**SUPPORTING THE ADOPTION OF A VOLUNTARY TARIFFED ON-BILL ENERGY EFFICIENCY FINANCE PROGRAM BY FRENCH BROAD ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION**

**WHEREAS**, the majority of the land area of Mitchell County lies within the French Broad Electric Membership Corp. service area and accounts for approximately one-seventh of all properties receiving electric service from French Broad Electric;

**WHEREAS**, according to the 2010-2014 U.S. Census, 83 percent of the occupied housing stock of Mitchell County is more than 25 years old, accounting for more than 5,400 housing units, of which 1,138 are renter-occupied properties; and,

**WHEREAS**, nearly one in every six households located in Mitchell County live in poverty, and the area median income is nearly 20 percent lower than the state average; and, a study conducted by *Accounting Insights* found that those living below 50 percent of the poverty level in Mitchell County spent an average of 45 percent of their household income on energy costs in 2015; and,

**WHEREAS**, the large majority of residents in Mitchell County who need and/or could benefit from investments in home energy efficiency improvements cannot afford the needed improvements, do not qualify for traditional financing, and/or do not own the property they live in; and,

**WHEREAS**, a voluntary tariffed on-bill energy efficiency finance program would offer all Mitchell County residents, regardless of income level, credit score or whether they own the property they occupy, the option to finance needed home energy improvements "debt-free" while benefitting from lower annual energy costs and a more comfortable home; and,

**WHEREAS**, achieving even a modest level of investment in residential energy efficiency improvements through a voluntary utility on-bill energy efficiency finance program over the next ten years, resulting in the retrofit and improvement of 1,100 homes, could generate an average annual investment of \$825,000 for the county, create as many as 20 total jobs and 10 direct jobs for local contactors and retailers, and save county residents an average of \$140,000 on energy costs each year;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Mitchell County Board of Commissioners support the concept of a comprehensive, voluntary tariffed on-bill energy efficiency finance program as may be deemed appropriate and beneficial by French Broad Electric Membership Corporation.

**ADOPTED** this 6<sup>th</sup> day of March 2017.

  
Matthew Grindstaff, Chairman

Attest by:

  
Kathy Young, NCCCC Clerk to the Board