

Resolution #

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

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- WHEREAS,** more than 6,000 properties in Buncombe County receive electrical service from French Broad Electric Membership Corporation (EMC), accounting for nearly one-sixth of all French Broad EMC members;
- WHEREAS,** home energy efficiency investments help improve the overall housing stock and livability of an area, lower energy costs for residents, alleviate poverty, improve health outcomes and overall quality of life, create jobs and stimulate the local economy; and,
- WHEREAS,** according to the 2011-2015 U.S. Census, 45 percent of the occupied housing stock of Buncombe County is more than 35 years old, accounting for more than 45,000 housing units, of which 36 percent are renter-occupied properties; and
- WHEREAS,** nearly one in every six households located in Buncombe County live in poverty, gross rent exceeds 30 percent of income for 47 percent of renters; and a study conducted by *Accounting Insights* found that county residents living below 50 percent of the poverty spent an average of 36 percent of their household income on energy costs in 2015; and
- WHEREAS,** the large majority of residents in Buncombe County who need and/or could benefit from home energy efficiency improvements cannot afford to make 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 Buncombe 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 through a voluntary utility on-bill energy efficiency finance program over the next ten years would result in the retrofit and improvement of many homes, create new jobs for local contactors and retailers, and reduce energy costs for Buncombe County residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners for the County of Buncombe as follows:

1. That the 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.
2. That this resolution shall be effective upon its adoption.

ADOPTED this 6th day of June, 2017

ATTEST

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR BUNCOMBE COUNTY

KATHY HUGHES, CLERK

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN

APPROVED AS TO FORM

COUNTY ATTORNEY