**Talking Points**

*Use these talking points as needed to communicate with your representatives and senators about the importance of funding the NC Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service. Be sure to include personal accounts of how NC DEACS has helped you in your career, business and local programs.*

FACTS:

* The State recycling office helps create vital, cost-efficient material supply for manufacturers across North Carolina. More than 60 manufacturers in North Carolina depend on recycling material for feedstock, employing 14,547 people and generating over $4 Billion in annual revenue.
* The state recycling program supports a robust and dynamic state recycling economy that includes more than 700 separate recycling businesses with annual payroll exceeding $664 Million.
* Recycling investment in North Carolina has exceeded $1 billion in the last seven years.
* State recycling grants and assistance have catalyzed $36.8 Million in private capital investment across NC in the past three years.
* Much of the economic development that recycling has spurred in North Carolina has been in rural communities, putting abandoned factory buildings back to work and creating employment opportunities for rural workers.
* North Carolina is one of only two states in the country in which the state recycling office has direct, formal ties with the state economic development agency. Since 1994, the state recycling office has had an employee working directly in the Department of Commerce and Economic Development Partnership to recruit recycling businesses and create jobs.
* State recycling program assistance has helped city and county recycling programs cut millions of dollars in operational costs through more efficient programs, while also working to expand the array of recycling services available to the public.
* The state recycling office supports county and municipal recycling programs that annually keep more than 1.5 million tons of recyclable commodities out of landfills.
* The state recycling office has supported a continual growth in curbside recycling programs now serving more than 5 million North Carolinians with efficient cart-based collection.
* The state recycling program has saved manufacturers and other waste-generating companies millions of dollars in waste disposal costs by providing key recycling market information, helping many of the state’s largest manufacturers achieve their zero waste to landfill goals.

GENERAL STATEMENTS:

* Erasing DEACS from the map will be a giant leap backwards for all aspects of our industry in NC and beyond.
* DEACS is instrumental in supporting healthy recycling markets, keeping materials flowing, and working to ensure that manufacturing demands are met.
* DEACS works in all facets of the North Carolina recycling industry, including the private and public sectors, providing funding, tools, technical assistance, education, and resources.
* These activities in-turn save communities money, generate income for NC businesses, processors and manufacturers, and increase capital investments and tax revenues for the state.
* Over the years DEACS has helped make NC a national leader in recycling and waste diversion programs.
* NC DEACS contributes significantly to the billions of dollars the recycling industry brings into North Carolina.