



## **COFFEE MEETING RECAP:**

### **Energy Issues Spark Conversation at Event**

**JULY 17, 2019** -- Recent actions that could drive up the cost of gasoline and electricity drew the concerns of constituents at State Rep. Rich Collins' July coffee meeting in Millsboro yesterday morning.

Rep. Collins discussed Delaware's participation in the [Transportation & Climate Initiative \(TCI\)](#) -- a coalition of nine states designing a new regional cap-and-trade policy to cut carbon emissions from cars and trucks. Rep. Collins notes that California is the only state to have enacted such a system on vehicle fuels and presently has the highest average gasoline price in the nation. He said he believes Delaware officials are preparing for action to make traditional vehicles more expensive to operate, while biasing citizens to buy electric cars.

Rep. Collins also told constituents about a bill a Senate bill proposing to raise the percentage of electricity utilities must supply from renewable resources. Presently, Delaware electricity utilities are mandated to have at least 25% of their energy sourced from renewable generation by 2025, including 3.5% from solar power. A measure that briefly appeared at the end of the legislative session sought to increase these renewable thresholds to 40% by 2035, including 7.25% from solar. Critics note the leading sources of renewable electricity -- wind, solar, and hydroelectric -- are weather dependent and cannot be relied on to provide constant base load support. Renewable

power rates can also exceed traditional generation methods, potentially driving up prices. Facing opposition from electricity utilities, the bill was not introduced.

Electricity is one of the leading expenses of poultry growers. One of the attendees observed that if power costs jump significantly, it could hurt the livelihoods of many farm families and destabilize the county's agricultural base.

"I don't oppose renewable energy or reducing pollution," Rep. Collins told the more than two dozen constituents at the meeting. "What I am against is government forcing events and putting a drag on our economy."