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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**GOLD LEAF DESIGN GROUP TO DONATE 1% OF SALES TO EQUALITY NC**

Company stands with others in opposition to recently passed HB2 law

High Point, NC (April 6, 2016) – Long-time exhibitor at the High Point Market, Gold Leaf Design Group has pledged to donate 1% of their market sales to Equality NC, a local LGBT advocacy organization. This declaration is in response to the HB 2 bill recently rushed through the state legislature and signed by Governor McCrory.

House Bill 2, among other things, prohibits local anti-discrimination protections for gay, bisexual and transgender people and restricts transgender bathroom use. “We are deeply concerned by this law and its implications,” says Darren DeMatoff, a principal at Gold Leaf, “It is an unfair attack on employment, education, and local governance that encourages discrimination and is particularly demeaning towards transgender men and women.”

Gold Leaf chose to sponsor Equality NC over larger national organizations after consulting customers and partners in North Carolina. “One of our core values at Gold Leaf is to support and enrich the lives of our community.” Darren explains, “Equality NC has been a tireless advocate in the state and as a small organization ourselves, we appreciate the big effects dedicated and enthusiastic people can accomplish.”

A creative manufacturer of home accents and décor, Gold Leaf Design Group’s space at High Point Market is a popular stop for interior designers and store owners seeking the latest trends. “High Point is one of our most important markets.” says Darren. “By being visible and speaking out, we can help address this issue. We hope other companies at the Market support Equality NC or other groups challenging this unjust law.“

To join or coordinate with Gold Leaf Design Group’s effort, contact Darren DeMatoff at [Darren@goldleafdesigngroup.com](mailto:Darren@goldleafdesigngroup.com) or support Equality NC directly by contacting Benedict Graumann, Development Director at bgraumann@equalitync.org