

[REDACTED]

From: Joseph [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2015 10:59 AM
To: EMPupdate
Subject: Energy master plan update

Hello,

I read an article on WHYY's Newsworks website that you were planning on updating the state's Energy Master Plan. I just wanted to send a note of support for building the offshore wind turbines that the Christie administration has blocked for several years now. I believe we should be exploring every alternative energy method possible, and offshore wind is a definite part of that. Unless it results in egregious financial losses for the state, there is no reason we shouldn't be doing this.

Thanks!

Joseph Russell
Collingswood, NJ

[REDACTED]

From: John Moss <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2015 9:15 PM
To: EMPupdate
Subject: Energy Master Plan Update

To Whom It May Concern,

I was very disappointed when the Governor, despite his supposed reputation to the contrary, broke his word given in 2009 to be a strong advocate for clean energy, a green economy and environmental responsibility when his administration adopted the 2011 Energy Master Plan.

However, now that the BPU is considering updating that plan, you can correct those mistakes. Please do everything in your power to advance the following policies now and remember even if you're in the minority on the BPU today, your opinion expressed strongly today can help build for a better tomorrow:

- * Accelerate NJ's transition to a safe, clean energy economy using existing technology through aggressive but attainable goals -- 30% increase in efficiency by 2030 and relying on 100% fossil free energy production by 2050
- * Just say no to the construction and expansion of new oil and gas industries and facilities in NJ
- * Incentivize clean energy technology making the Garden State a hotbed for manufacturing, research and development, installation and maintenance of green technologies to create sustainable jobs
- * Reduce existing equity and environmental justice issues by ensuring vulnerable communities especially benefit as we transition from a dirty to a clean economy.

John Moss
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Public Statement

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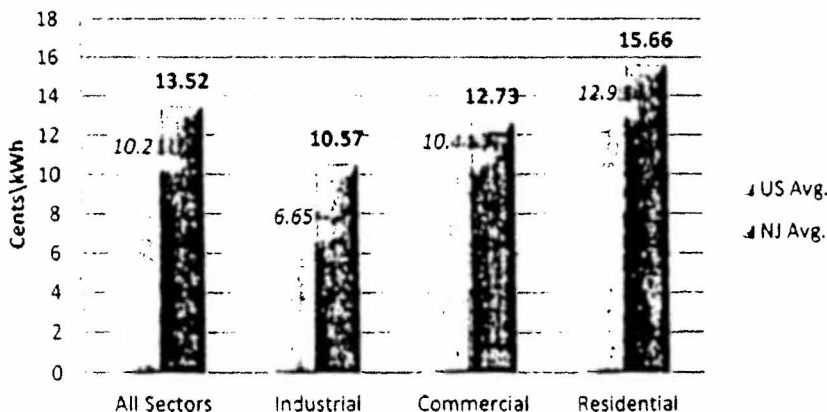
CCNJ continues to support the balanced approach presented in the state's 2011 Energy Master Plan

Good afternoon, my name is Elvin Montero, and I am director of communications and issues management for the Chemistry Council of New Jersey (CCNJ).

CCNJ represents more than 60 chemistry manufacturers in the state of New Jersey, many of which are large energy users. They are all part of New Jersey's \$25.3 Billion chemistry industry, making it the largest manufacturing industry in the state. The business of chemistry accounts for about 23.4% of the value of all New Jersey exports, or \$8.6 Billion, making its products the state's largest export. Chemistry companies in New Jersey directly employ about 50,000 people, and indirectly contribute another 73,600 jobs to the economy.

In a CCNJ membership survey conducted during the months of June and July of 2015, respondents for the eighth consecutive year unanimously ranked energy costs as one of the top issues of concern facing their companies in New Jersey. One can understand why, since New Jersey's industrial energy rates are among the highest in the nation, 60% above the national average for industrial users. For some energy-intensive products, energy for both fuel and power needs and feedstocks account for up to 85% of total production costs. Because energy is a vital component of the industry's cost structure, higher energy prices can have a substantial impact on jobs and the bottom line.

New Jersey's Average Retail Price of Electricity to Ultimate Customers by End-Use Sector, May 2015



	All Sectors	Industrial	Commercial	Residential
Rank	10 th	3 th	11 th	11 th
Price (Cents/kWh)	13.52	10.57	12.73	15.66
US Avg. (Cents/kWh)	10.21	6.65	10.44	12.95
Percentage	32%	50%	22%	21%

Source: http://www.eia.doe.gov/state/state_energy_profiles.cfm?sid=NJ (Monthly Data Collected August 2015)

Four years ago, the Council applauded the Christie administration for what it believed to be a balanced and holistic Energy Master Plan that set realistic goals and did not cater to any one constituent group.

The Council commends the state, particularly the BPU, for maintaining the right balance between economic development and for doing what it can to offer New Jersey cheap and reliable energy.

Chemistry Council members need access to affordable, reliable and safe energy to help stimulate economic development and investment within our sector in New Jersey.

High energy costs in New Jersey put the business of chemistry at a competitive disadvantage.

While the average electricity rate for all sectors in NJ has dropped about 8.9% versus 2011, when this Energy Master Plan was adopted, residential rates have come down less than 2% and all energy rates in New Jersey still remain above the national average. We congratulate the state's efforts to date, but we challenge the state to advance the five overarching goals of the Energy Master Plan, particularly the one to "Drive down the cost of energy for all customers."

The BPU is right in keeping energy costs in mind for all ratepayers, while considering any changes to the EMP, particularly as they relate to any new resiliency policies.

New Jersey should continue to promote a diversified energy portfolio that is sensitive to the electricity rates consumers will ultimately pay, and should consider all energy generation solutions, including nuclear and cogeneration to help bring down the cost of energy, while meeting the state's environmental goals. There is no question that the state needs new base load generation to update the state's aging generation supply, and in doing so it is important that the state continue to consider ways to do this while having minimal impact on electricity rates.

Even the EPA's Clean Energy Power Plan recognized that industrial combined heat and power (CHP) units should not be subject to the final CPP. Given the environmental benefits of CHP and the U.S. government's efforts to promote growth of industrial distributed generation, doing so makes good policy sense. Expanded deployment and use of industrial CHP can help make electricity generation more efficient and reliable while lowering emissions.

Continued support for safer natural gas development and energy generation will also help provide reliable energy at lower costs, while mitigating emissions.

In fact, two days after the EPA plan was released, the Energy Information Administration issued a press release entitled: "Monthly power sector carbon dioxide emissions reach 27-year low in April." Natural gas production is largely the reason emissions are reaching record lows. Increased natural gas use was responsible for more than 62 percent of electric power sector CO2 savings from 2005 to 2013, according to an October 2014 EIA study.

New Jersey's close proximity to the Marcellus Shale is something that should be leveraged, and it is why, in order to take advantage of the historically low natural gas prices, the EMP should continue to support the safe expansion of natural gas pipeline system.

CCNJ is not against alternative energy generation, in fact our member companies are leading the innovation that is helping to make the products used in solar panels and wind turbines more cost effective and efficient. What we are against is the funding models that have been afforded certain alternative energy solutions guaranteeing a high rate of return at the expense of ratepayers. Ratepayers, be they industrial, residential, or commercial, simply can't afford to support alternative energy at the rate the state has been to date. Alternative energy solutions can cost two to three times more than conventional sources of energy generation and add little to the state's overall energy profile.

We encourage the state to continue to implement the EMP's guiding principle to look at cost effective alternative energy generation options that demonstrate a net-benefit to ratepayers, while protecting the environment. Any funding mechanism must keep the ratepayer in mind, and the potential for cost reductions due to the advancement of technologies must be taken into consideration so that ratepayers receive the benefit of the lower cost technologies, and investors are not guaranteed a rate of return for an extended period of time at the expense of ratepayers.

The Council does remain concerned about the potential impact on electricity rates, for all ratepayers, the renewable energy portfolio standard of 22.5% of energy from renewable sources by 2021 will have. We are just six years away, and as of April, only about 4% of our energy is from renewable sources.

To meet this goal, the Energy Master Plan must continue to support a balanced approach to promote a diverse portfolio of conventional and economically feasible renewable technologies that will help address our supply issues, and ultimately bring down electricity rates in this state.

CCNJ continues to encourage the promotion of energy efficiency in New Jersey. We are an industry that has been regularly engaged in this practice with much success. Be mindful of setting standards that are attainable, because until technology can meet the needs of our efficiency goals, the industry is limited to energy efficiency innovation currently available and more aggressive measures may lead to further erosion of New Jersey's manufacturing job base.

In terms of energy infrastructure upgrades, particularly as it relates to resiliency, CCNJ supports retaining the current ratemaking structure for utilities. The traditional ratemaking structure under which the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) sets rates in a rate case, properly balances utility needs and consumer protection in a manner that is most accountable and transparent. **CCNJ seeks to advance real solutions that will improve reliability for all electric customers, not shortsighted plans that can result in millions of dollars in profits for the utilities, and limited benefits to ratepayers. New Jerseyans cannot afford higher energy rates from multi-billion dollar energy proposals that are not properly scrutinized or deemed necessary, effective or financially prudent.**

In closing, we again congratulate the BPU and the state for its efforts thus far. We encourage you to stay the course with the Energy Master Plan by implementing environmentally conscience energy initiatives that can ultimately reduce electricity rates, revitalize New Jersey's economy, and secure New Jersey's energy future. **And always keep in mind the ratepayers, not just the Industrial ratepayers with electricity rates 60% above the national average, but those who are making a decision between paying for food, medicine, or electric bill.**