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**Principals**  
Richard Rehmann, GISP  
Chris Rehmann, PE, CME, PP, PLS  
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Robert Heggan, PLS, PP

MAY 11 2017

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES  
MAIL ROOM

May 5, 2017

Irene Kim Asbury, Secretary  
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities  
44 South Clinton Avenue  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Suite 314  
CN 350  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Re: Support for Straw Proposals  
Infrastructure Programs  
Provisional Rate Implementation  
ARH #09A

Dear Ms. Asbury:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter in support of the straw proposals discussed at the public meetings on May 4, 2017 at 10 am and 1 pm at the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) offices at 44 South Clinton Avenue, Trenton, NJ.

I am the President of ARH Associates, Inc., a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation eighty (80) person multidiscipline civil engineering firm with offices in Atlantic and Essex counties. While our clients include utility companies, we also work for other private companies and many state and local governmental clients. Added to our membership in and participation with a number of local and regional economic development organizations, I speak from more than just a singular perspective.

I believe that our community is in crisis. Unfortunately, the challenges that we face come from many directions. One particular crisis point results from uncertainty – in our economy, political environment, future. Uncertainty can quickly lead to stagnation, an environment ripe for failure.

Infrastructure improvements are a critical component for the economic health of our society, as well as the viability of my firm. As a new leader of ARH Associates, I have quickly learned that managing risk and mitigating the effects of uncertainty

**ARH Associates**

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is just as important as providing high quality services at a fair price. Providing a service or supplying a deliverable only to not get paid on a timely basis puts significant strain on business operations.

ARH Associates, Inc. is in full support of the primary intent of both straw proposals: giving more certainty to utility companies to implement infrastructure investments within the guidelines and processes of the BPU. After all, investing in our community helps to avoid stagnation and generate the environment for economic development at time what we really need it.

Sincerely,

**Richard Rehmann**  
**President**

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