

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2018

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ENERGY MASTER PLAN
STAKEHOLDER MEETING

SUPPLEMENTAL MEETING

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HELD AT:
SETON HALL LAW SCHOOL
LARSON AUDITORIUM
1109 RAYMOND BOULEVARD
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY
4:00 P.M.

BEFORE:

GRACE STROM-POWER
KENNETH SHEEHAN
MICHAEL HORNSBY
CHRISTINE SADOVY

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1 MS. POWER: My name is Grace Power.
2 I'm the Chief of Staff at the BPU. And, I also
3 serve as Chair of the Energy Master Plan Committee.
4 Really excited to welcome you here to Newark. As
5 you may know, we originally scheduled five public
6 hearings, most of which went all day, in five
7 separate areas. But, due to so much demand and
8 interest in continuing to comment on the plan and
9 have some more diverse locations, we have added
10 tonight's hearing and also next week's hearing in
11 Camden.

12 Also tonight, we do have one of our
13 staff members who have graciously joined us, who
14 can serve as a translator for anyone of our
15 Spanish-speakers.

16 MS. SURREY: Hi. My name is Maria
17 Surrey, and I'm with the Board of Public Utilities
18 customer assistance. I speak Spanish, and if you
19 need assistance please ask.

20 MS. POWER: As many of you know, in
21 May of this year Governor Murphy signed Executive
22 Order 28. And, that directed the Board of Public
23 Utilities to spearhead a new Energy Master Plan,
24 which will be delivered to the Governor by June of
25 next year. The ultimate goal is to develop a

1 blueprint of the total conversion of the state's
2 energy production profile to a hundred percent
3 clean energy by 2050. We're also looking to
4 implement specific proposals that we can implement
5 over the next ten years. This is a rough timeline
6 of the Energy Master Plan. As I said, we kicked
7 off in May, and this has been an inter-agency
8 effort. We had our kick-off meeting in June, and
9 like I mentioned we held five stakeholder meetings
10 in September, and we're having two more this month.
11 We are soon going to be getting to work reading all
12 of your comments, and starting to put together a
13 draft over the winter. Some point this spring --
14 late winter/early spring we're going to be putting
15 out a draft for public comment. We're going to
16 continue the stakeholder process holding meetings
17 around state and welcome folks to give us their
18 input. Finally, in June we're going to deliver
19 the final plan to the Governor.

20 I just want to highlight that this
21 truly has been an inter-agency effort. We have a
22 number of departments that are involved in the EMP.
23 In addition to the Board of Public Utilities, we
24 have the Department of Community Affairs, EDA, DEP,
25 Department of Health, Department of Human Services,

1 Department of Transportation, Department of Labor
2 And workforce Development, Department of the
3 Treasury, and New Jersey Transit.

4 Our next meeting will be next week,
5 October 10th, and it will be at Rutgers Camden,
6 also beginning at 4:00 p.m.

7 I wanted to add that we do have an
8 open comment period. If you go to the EMP website
9 you will see that for each of our five working
10 groups -- which are Clean and Renewable Power,
11 Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure, Reducing
12 Energy Consumption, Clean and Reliable
13 Transportation, and Building a Modern Grid -- we
14 have put out combined over 100 questions where
15 we're asking for very specific feedback. And, you
16 can comment on that here tonight. You can also
17 submit comments to EMP.comments@bpu.nj.com. The
18 public comment period will remain open until
19 Friday, October 12th at five p.m. So, again, we
20 ask you to comment. We really are looking for
21 input from anyone who is interested in clean energy
22 and the state's energy future. So, thank you for
23 joining us.

24 Just a few quick matters of
25 housekeeping. We do have a list, we're going to

1 be going in order of folks who have pre-registered,
2 and then we're going to be looking at folks who
3 joined us tonight. We are asking that you please
4 limit your remarks to ten minutes. I do have signs
5 here to give you a little reminder. We want to be
6 respectful of everyone's time. And, of course, if
7 you can summarize your comments instead of reading
8 your full comment, that would be great. We will
9 certainly be reading all your comments carefully,
10 and will eventually be posted on line for everybody
11 to review.

12 So, without further adieu, we'll get
13 started. We are going to start with Lyle Rawlings
14 from MSEIA. Lyle, are you here? Okay.

15 Now we're going to go to Harriet
16 Shugarman from Climate Mama. And then Ted Glick,
17 Roseland Against the Compressor Station & 350NJ.

18 MS. SHUGARMAN: Thank you. Thank you
19 very much for holding this additional hearing so
20 that those of us in the northern half of the state
21 can more easily and directly share our input with
22 you at this stage in the process.

23 As a lead agency tasked with
24 developing a strategic vision for the production,
25 distribution, consumption, and conservation of

1 energy in the State of New Jersey, you have a
2 critical role to play in our future now, and that
3 of all of our children. So it's important that you
4 hear from as many and varied individuals and
5 organizations as you can.

6 As the Executive Director of Climate
7 Mama, an organization with members in all fifty
8 states and over a hundred countries, I'm speaking
9 today on behalf of our members here in New Jersey
10 and in our region. As parents and grandparents we
11 are deeply concerned about the slow and backward
12 response on climate policy and action that our
13 federal administration is taking; and, also the
14 limited leadership role that New Jersey has played.
15 We look to you, under the direction of Governor
16 Murphy, to lead and not to follow. This means we
17 must do more than talk-the-talk, we must really
18 walk-the-walk, because our planet is showing us in
19 so many ways that we're out of time.

20 I live in Bergen County, where I raise
21 my two children. One of them suffers from seasonal
22 allergies and breathing difficulties brought upon,
23 and exacerbated in large part by our climate
24 crisis, and the energy policies and the pollution
25 legacy that they've created together. From the

1 outset I want to recognize and acknowledge the
2 legacy issues that you deal with from the previous
3 administration that choose to ignore, in large
4 part, the directives in the Global Warming Response
5 Act of 2007, which were revolutionary to the state,
6 ambitious in its goals, and set as far and above as
7 leaders on the climate action in our country.

8 Governor Murphy has called for a
9 blueprint for New Jersey to be a leader in the 21st
10 Century energy economy. Well, we've had a
11 blueprint before, and we didn't follow it. You
12 have a direct role to play in ensuring that we
13 don't get stuck, that we move forward, and that we
14 think outside of the current box that we may find
15 ourselves in. Sadly, in this state, we move too
16 slowly and allowed ourselves to slide backwards,
17 not learning what we she have from events like
18 Superstorm Sandy, the flooding and drought
19 conditions that happen on a more regular basis.
20 And, you have before you a passed energy plan that
21 was built on pipelines and gas. We must not allow
22 ourselves to be stuck here. We can and we must
23 lead with our unlimited off-shore wind
24 opportunities, and the commercial and residential
25 roof tops, brown fields, and other areas we have to

1 move farther and faster on solar energy.

2 As a regulatory body, your mission
3 statement includes the following: To develop and
4 regulate a competitive economically cost-effective
5 energy policy that promotes responsible growth and
6 clean renewable energy sources, while maintaining a
7 high quality of life here in New Jersey. Well,
8 our high quality of life in New Jersey is already
9 directly threatened by the challenges we face from
10 our climate crisis. With each passing extreme
11 weather event, our future and now, and the energy
12 infrastructure we currently have in place, is
13 threatened. The system we have isn't working.
14 Cost-effective means not ignoring costs like health
15 care, food security, and damages. We must
16 internalize these costs when pricing fossil fuel as
17 a source of energy. Gas and its infrastructure is
18 not a short-term fix. Not a way for it and not a
19 transition. It's a gang plank to a future that
20 will wreak havoc with our health, our quality of
21 life, and our existence.

22 I'm joining others who have asked you
23 for a full moratorium at all fossil fuel
24 infrastructures and -- we look to you and this 2019
25 Energy Master Plan to lead on climate solutions,

1 policies and actions. You need to be bold, to
2 think outside the proverbial box, to push the
3 envelope of a regulatory body, and to really
4 oversee the tightening of our renewable energy
5 portfolio standards, making sure we develop real
6 renewable ways to build out and secure our energy
7 through wind and solar. You must also work hard
8 to include rewards for energy conservation
9 measures, too.

10 When we as ratepayers are asked to set
11 aside fees for renewable energy support, this must
12 be clear and transparent. And, it must support
13 renewable energy options, programs, and projects.
14 New Jersey must not be allowed to divert these fees
15 for other measures, as our previous administration
16 has allowed. When private infrastructure
17 development, like the proposed Meadowlands gas
18 fired power plant reared their ugly head with no
19 energy benefits for New Jersey residents, only with
20 health and environmental degradation, you must
21 boldly say "no". When interstate pipelines that
22 carry fracked gas from Pennsylvania and beyond are
23 proposed to pass through our state, we must stand
24 up and say we are not a pass through state. We
25 live here. We are raising our children here. And

1 we want New Jersey to be a shining example of what
2 can be done to fight against our climate crisis,
3 and give our children a chance at a livable future.
4 We must not be party to perpetuating past policies
5 and actions that are literally going to kill us,
6 and force an impossible future on our children.

7 As a representative stakeholder for
8 many others who can't be here today in person, I
9 pledge to stay involved, active, and committed to
10 our children and their future. What about you?
11 Our future and that of our children, and mine, is
12 in your hands. It really is. And that's not an
13 over statement. And you have the power, and I ask
14 that you please use it wisely. Thank you.

15 MS. POWER: Next we have Ted Glick.
16 And on deck is Kim Gaddy with Clean Water Action.

17 MR. GLICK: Thank you for this
18 opportunity to speak to you. It is actually a very
19 good thing to be able to speak to you representing
20 a legislature, a governor, who have made a
21 commitment to shifting to one hundred percent
22 renewable energy in the State of New Jersey. So, I
23 definitely am glad that I'm able to speak to that.

24 I will say, however, that we don't
25 have until 2050 to make this shift. We just really

1 don't. Any objective assessment of the state of
2 the climate crisis in the world as it impacts New
3 Jersey and the United States, shows that we are in
4 very serious trouble. So, I think the key thing in
5 terms of what needs to happen is to get moving now
6 on a whole series of things that involve both
7 making it easier for solar energy to be put on
8 roofs and in driveways and back yards. And, for
9 other renewable energy sources to move forward.
10 Definitely off-shore wind. It's good that the
11 Governor is taking some aggressive steps, it looks
12 like, on off-shore wind. There's tremendous
13 electrical capacity off of the coast. Not just in
14 New Jersey, but up and down from Massachusetts down
15 to North Carolina. Tremendous amount of
16 electricity that can be created if there's a
17 serious initiative to produce that. So, I do
18 commend that.

19 Just a word about myself. I've been
20 active primarily in Essex County for about fifteen
21 years working on this issue. Right now the two
22 primary groups I work with are Roseland Against the
23 Compressor Station. We're just trying to prevent
24 the expansion of something that shouldn't even be
25 there now, but it is. A compressor station in

1 Roseland. There's a plan to -- a proposal to more
2 than double the size of that gas compressor
3 station. That's one group I'm part of. Have been
4 for five years. And I'm also on the steering
5 committee of the group 350 New Jersey, which is
6 part of international organization, 350.org. That
7 is in, I believe, something like seventy to eighty
8 countries. There's international work going on all
9 over on this issue.

10 I do want to second what Harriet
11 Shugarman said, that the Governor absolutely needs
12 -- and the legislature and entities like yourselves
13 who are about making this transition -- you have to
14 be serious about a moratorium on any new fossil
15 fuel infrastructure in the state. To me, that's
16 the number one thing that needs to happen
17 yesterday. Because we're not going to get to a
18 hundred percent renewable energy probably by 2050,
19 much less earlier than that -- which is what we
20 have to do -- unless we stop digging the hole that
21 we're already in. When you approve new gas
22 pipelines, when you approve new compressor
23 stations, when you approve the expansion of
24 compressor stations, when you approve all of this
25 type of infrastructure you're making things worse,

1 not better. So, to us, that's a key first step.
2 And, we strongly urge you to support that, to do
3 everything you can to bring that about.

4 How much time do I have left, by the
5 way?

6 MS. POWER: Six and a half minutes.

7 MR. GLICK: Okay. Thank you. I want
8 to talk just a little bit about the Roseland
9 compressor project, which comes under the rubric of
10 the gateway expansion project. The gateway
11 expansion project is one of three fossil fuel gas,
12 natural gas, expansion projects that Williams --
13 the company Williams, one of the major pipeline
14 companies in the country, they just happened to put
15 these proposals forward about six months after
16 Donald Trump was elected president. One of them
17 is this gateway expansion project. Another one is
18 the northeast supply enhancement. And the third
19 one Riverdale South to Market. They've got three
20 of them. And, they're pushing very hard to
21 dramatically increase their capacity, to again,
22 essentially pass through -- as Ms. Shugarman said
23 -- pass through gas through the State of New
24 Jersey, because these projects are not primarily
25 for New Jersey. You can see that in particular

1 with the Meadowlands gas plant, which is explicitly
2 all for New York City. It's not for New Jersey.
3 And, of course, we need to get off gas and fossil
4 fuels any way. But, it is ironic that that's what
5 Williams is doing, that's what Mitsubishi is doing
6 in terms of the Meadowlands plant. They want to
7 use New Jersey as -- it's like basically all risk
8 and no reward for New Jersey, by and large.
9 Because with the pipelines, the compressor
10 stations, the power plants, we get the dirty
11 polluted air. We get the risks of explosions and
12 fires. And then the gas, the profits or course, go
13 to the companies that build the pipelines and the
14 gas companies, and the product goes elsewhere, by
15 and large. That doesn't seem to us to be sound
16 public policy for New Jersey. Definitely it's not
17 sound public policy when it comes to shifting away
18 from fossil fuels to renewables.

19 Williams -- getting back to the
20 gateway expansion project -- has put forward a
21 proposal that is very dishonest. I would urge
22 you, all those in legislature, all those dealing
23 with these projects, to look at them very closely.
24 This, I think, is an example of what we're facing
25 oftentimes with fossil fuel industry proposals and

1 behavior. There's right now a 27,500 horsepower
2 compressor station that was built five years ago in
3 Roseland. By the way, the mayor of Roseland and
4 the council of Roseland, are all against this plan
5 to expand this existing compressor station, as is
6 county executive Joe DiRizzeno. It's a very
7 unpopular proposal among a lot of people. So,
8 right now there's 27,500 horsepower compressor.
9 About two years ago, Williams put in and got
10 approval to add an additional 2,500 horsepower to
11 what was then a 25,000 horsepower compressor. And
12 they said that they needed this additional 2,500
13 horsepower to bring through 115,000 decatherms of
14 natural gas. Okay. 2,500 horsepower for 115,000
15 decatherms of gas. Well, the proposal that a lot
16 of us are fighting right now, proposes an
17 additional 33,000 horsepower to push through 65,000
18 decatherms. So, 2,500 additional horsepower for
19 115,000 decatherms, and they're now saying they
20 need additional 33,000 horsepower for 65,000
21 decatherms. It makes no sense. It's clear that
22 the purpose of the expansion of this compressor
23 station is to dramatically increase the amount of
24 natural gas, primarily fracked gas coming from
25 Pennsylvania, that Williams will be able to pass

1 through the State of New Jersey. It's also no
2 coincidence that the pipeline coming out of the
3 compressor station, coming out of Roseland, goes up
4 a ways, it goes through North Bergen very close to
5 the location where that Meadowlands proposed power
6 plant would be built. So, it's very clear what is
7 the plan of Williams. They want to set themselves
8 up to have this very powerful 60,500 horsepower
9 compressor station that will be able to bring a
10 great deal of gas through central New Jersey, going
11 up further into the northern part of New Jersey,
12 for power plants, possibly for export overseas by
13 hooking up with other pipelines, other companies.
14 That's what we are certain is the plan. We don't
15 think they're telling the truth in their proposal.
16 And, we're hopping -- I mean, this has been called
17 to the attention of the federal Energy Regulatory
18 Commission, which has a history of basically rubber
19 stamping any gas pipeline proposals. It's also
20 been called to the attention of the New Jersey DEP.
21 It should be rejected on these grounds. This
22 proposal is a sham proposal.

23 And, there's a great deal more I can
24 say, but I see you're holding up the one-minute
25 sign. Just let me go back to what I said at the

1 beginning. The most important thing you can do in
2 terms of steps is this moratorium on any new
3 approvals of fossil fuel infrastructure. And, in
4 fact, there's a decision coming up soon on the
5 gateway expansion project. That be a really good
6 place to start. Anything you can do to help
7 encourage that, I think would be very much a good
8 way to start off this whole process that you're
9 under. Thank you.

10 MS. POWER: Kim Gaddy. And then
11 Jonathan Cloud. Nancy Griffeth. Bernadette
12 Maher.

13 MS. GRIFFETH: I'm Nancy Griffeth from
14 Unitarian Universal Faith Action, the environmental
15 justice task force. And, I've spoken at three of
16 these hearings already, so I'm going to keep it
17 very brief.

18 Our main concern is that environmental
19 justice communities who suffer from environmental
20 damage, and from the effects of climate change
21 first, should also be the first to get the benefits
22 of the programs that we put together in New Jersey.
23 And, that hasn't always been the case in the past.
24 I think it can be -- while we have the best of
25 intentions, we can do things that don't work well.

1 And, I'd just like to add, that I
2 support the public comments of our friends in the
3 environmental justice community. Thank you.

4 MS. POWER: Thank you. Bernadette
5 Maher here? Lyle Rawlings, I see you have arrived.

6 MR. RAWLINGS: Thank you. Hi, my name
7 is Lyle Rawlings, president of the Mid-Atlantic
8 Solar Industries Association. I have some slides
9 to hand out. And since there are only four people
10 up here, I'll have some extras for folks in the
11 audience later if you want them.

12 Hello. And, again, for all of you up
13 here up front, God bless you for sitting through
14 all of these interminable hearings. You have the
15 patience of Job.

16 I'm going to be continuing testimony
17 that I gave on Friday about infrastructure for a
18 renewable energy future. Of course there was
19 limited time then, so I wanted to get in a little
20 more into the detail of what it takes to get to a
21 hundred percent renewables.

22 It is an incredible goal, fantastic
23 goal, and one that we have to get to. But, a goal
24 has to be matched with a plan, and a plan requires
25 some detail. And, as I said, the important thing

1 is that renewable energy costs more than fossil
2 fueled energy. That's the way the market values
3 it, of course, because the market does not value
4 the cost of climate change or regional pollution,
5 or other costs that are imposed by fossil fuels.
6 So, that cost is going to be substantial on the
7 ratepayers of New Jersey. And, so, it's very
8 important to minimize it. To create a plan that
9 provides an optimum cost to get from here to there.
10 And, at the same time, ensure reliability and
11 safety of the electric system. This is not an
12 easy task.

13 Of course, as we know, New Jersey
14 doesn't have a lot of hydro. It doesn't have a lot
15 of biomass. Those are renewable resources that
16 are steady in the case of hydro, or can be
17 controlled in the case of biomass. What do we
18 have? We have solar and wind. Those are
19 intermittent renewables. And, those pose some
20 interesting technical challenges.

21 The first slide in that deck that I
22 handed out, shows one that we're already dealing
23 with now. And, that is the fact that solar energy
24 is all over New Jersey. One particular utility
25 territory, Atlantic City Electric, is already

1 packed with solar energy to the point where they're
2 already closing a lot of circuits. And, this map
3 that shows the map of all Atlantic City territory,
4 it's roughly the bottom third of New Jersey. So
5 many circuits are closed that whole towns are
6 completely closed to any further solar development
7 already today. My own company, which is a solar
8 energy developer for large commercial projects, has
9 experienced over half of the proposed projects that
10 we have developed over the last year, has been
11 denied interconnection. Now, this is partly as a
12 result of antiquated standards that Mid-Atlantic
13 SEIA helped to write all the way back in 2000 when
14 solar was brand new, and utilities had never
15 experienced solar on their grid. Now we're way
16 past that. We are in a whole new paradigm. One in
17 which those standards really need no longer apply.

18 For instance, it's forbidden that any
19 substation should have reverse flow of power in New
20 Jersey. Now, you can't get anywhere near fifty
21 percent renewables as the Clean Energy Act
22 requires, and have that restriction. In
23 California, where they're a little bit further than
24 us in terms of penetration of renewables,
25 substations experience reverse flow all the time.

1 And Germany, which is even further ahead, this is
2 commonplace. In fact, in Germany whole states
3 within Germany, that are bigger than New Jersey,
4 whole states will export solar power during sunny
5 afternoons. So, we have to get beyond antiquated
6 standards.

7 It's also not possible, for instance,
8 in the Atlantic grid, or other places, to utilize
9 the advanced technology that's already built into
10 inverters that create the AC power from solar power
11 systems. This is a capability that's free,
12 because it's already built into these inverters.
13 And we cannot open up circuits by leveraging that
14 kind of asset that we have at our disposal. So,
15 this is an immediate possible way to help integrate
16 solar into the grid more cheaply, and get more of
17 it.

18 But, that's the immediate needs. I
19 want to talk more about the long-term measures that
20 we need to have. So, the next two slides list
21 nine areas where infrastructure is needed, or where
22 controls or other measures are needed, to get us
23 from where we are now to one hundred percent
24 renewables. The first thing is the generation mix
25 needs to be designed intelligently. You want

1 ninety percent solar and ten percent wind, or
2 ninety percent wind and ten percent solar. It's
3 not just a matter of which is cheaper. And,
4 they're both getting cheaper, by the way. The
5 latest news out of Massachusetts is that they have
6 just run an auction for off-shore wind, and the
7 auction winner with a 800 megawatt project came in
8 at six and a half cents above the cost of wholesale
9 power. That's a fantastic result. And, as
10 technology progresses, we can expect that our
11 results will be even better with the margin of
12 technology. But, that doesn't mean that it should
13 be all wind and very little solar. And, it doesn't
14 mean it should be all solar and very little wind.
15 You also have to look at how do those two sources
16 combined to create reliable base load power. Now,
17 it just happens that solar power puts out most of
18 the power right in the middle of the day. Wind
19 power, on the other hand, puts out most of it in
20 the morning and the afternoon. This is a great
21 match. But, you've got to study how much of each
22 will produce the lowest cost and the most reliable
23 power.

24 The number two issue is geographic
25 mixes. This is because it's an intermittent

1 resource, the further you go to mix together the
2 different resources the more reliable the resource
3 becomes. So, if you just have the solar from one
4 town, you're going to have a lot of ups and downs
5 as clouds come across. But if you go with a
6 forty-mile radius when it's cloudy in one area, it
7 will be sunny in another, and the average will even
8 things out. So, eventually this country will
9 understand that on a much broader scale, and we're
10 going to have an electronic super highway going
11 from Denver to New York. So, that when it's ten
12 o'clock in the morning here, it's eight o'clock in
13 the morning in Denver, so we'll be shipping solar
14 power west. But when it's six o'clock in the
15 evening here and it's five o'clock in Denver, so
16 we're getting dark but they still have plenty of
17 sun, they're going to be shooting that same power
18 back east. So, long distance transmission using
19 the new high voltage VC technology, that's
20 important.

21 The third item is load shaping or
22 demand management. If we're stuck with when the
23 solar and wind gets produced, we can deal with that
24 by shaping the load around the wind we have the
25 generation. So we can incent people through

1 pricing and other methods, to use it when we have
2 the most of it. That's an important way to very
3 cheaply get us to a renewable grid. Two minutes
4 left. I should have gone a little faster.

5 Well, the fourth one is very key.
6 And, that is curtailment of generators. It turns
7 out that everybody knows by now that we need
8 batteries to overcome this intermittency. But, it
9 turns out that's not the cheapest way to get over
10 the problem of intermittency. Recent studies,
11 particularly the Minnesota pathway study -- two
12 slides in advance of the official study are
13 included as the last two pages there -- it's
14 showing that it's actually cheaper to over build
15 the amount of solar we have, and then curtail it in
16 the middle of the day. So, you deliberately over
17 built solar, and then in the middle of the day you
18 chop off the head, the part where it's making the
19 most. And, over building -- because solar is
20 getting cheaper and cheaper -- over building and
21 then curtailing in the middle of the day, turns out
22 to be cheaper than batteries.

23 Now, there's several others, and you
24 can look through this list of nine measures. But,
25 vehicle to grid storage is another very important

1 issue, because no matter how much stationary
2 battery power we build, the rolling battery power
3 that we have in the form of vehicles will engulf
4 the amount of stationary we have. Our studies
5 show that if we convert a third of our vehicles to
6 battery power, we'll have about 183,000 megawatt
7 hours of capacity rolling around on the roads.
8 When that connects to the charger, we want to build
9 the infrastructure so that we can use that battery
10 power to stabilize the grid. I'm almost done.

11 Several other items can get you to the
12 optimum point. The point of all of this is this
13 requires comprehensive study that incorporates
14 technical challenges, the economic challenges, and
15 how to keep the grid stable and safe, altogether in
16 a detailed comprehensive study. That's what
17 Minnesota did, was a study by Clean Power Research.
18 Friends of MSEIA were prime authors of that study.
19 And, they found a particular mix of wind and solar,
20 but a hundred percent wind and solar all told, with
21 enough of this curtailment by over building, would
22 produce about five and a half cent premium over
23 ordinary fossil fuel power to get to a hundred
24 percent. They had a surprising finding that if
25 you just mix in five percent natural gas, that cost

1 comes down from five and a half cents to three and
2 a half cents. But, again, with exactly the right
3 mix of all these nine measures.

4 So, if we're serious about getting to
5 a hundred percent, I believe that New Jersey has to
6 take a similar comprehensive study keeping all of
7 those parameters in mind. And, we can get to a
8 cheap hundred percent renewable future, too.
9 Thank you very much.

10 MS. POWER: Thank you. Matthew
11 Smith. And then we have Kevin Corcoran, followed
12 by Paula Rogavin.

13 MR. SMITH: Good evening. My name is
14 Matthew Smith. I'm a Senior Organizer with Food
15 and Water Watch, here representing our more than
16 40,000 members and supporters here in New Jersey.

17 And, I want to start just by saying, I
18 think there's a bit of frustration on my part in
19 the way that this meeting was scheduled. We did
20 ask for additional opportunities for public
21 comments. But, to give a week's notice for
22 community members to schedule the time to take off
23 work, arrange for baby-sitters, do all the
24 necessary things that it takes to come to a
25 hearing, in my opinion isn't sufficient. I'm also

1 interested to find out how this meeting was noticed
2 publicly. I think it's imperative if we truly want
3 an energy plan that's representative of the full
4 spectrum of interests and needs from New Jersey,
5 that we have more participation. So, I would like
6 to find out more about the process. And maybe
7 there can be some follow up about how this meeting
8 was noticed, and what outreach was done. And then
9 maybe there can be some input into that process
10 from community members so that we can ensure better
11 participation for future hearings.

12 But, I will say that the substance --
13 on to the substance of my comments. It's an
14 exciting time. I mean, those of us who have been
15 environmental advocacy, have been dealing with an
16 administration that, quite frankly, has been
17 hostile to the idea of improving our energy system
18 by transitioning to a 21st century energy grid
19 that's powered by clean renewable energy sources.
20 The myriad of benefits are, at this point, I think
21 evident, from public health to environment, to
22 addressing climate change, to the economics and
23 energy independence -- true energy independence
24 that can only be achieved through renewable energy.
25 So, it's an exciting time to be talking about an

1 energy plan that is already working under the
2 supposition to achieve one hundred percent clean
3 energy by 2050.

4 I do want to echo a colleagues'
5 comments and say that what the global, scientific,
6 academic, public policy community is telling us,
7 primarily the international panel on climate change
8 which is due to release a report on Monday, which
9 is talking about this global challenge of how do we
10 keep temperature increases below two degrees, and
11 in fact strive for temperature increases no more
12 than 1.5 degrees Celsius to avoid runaway
13 catastrophic climate change. And, then the
14 conclusions that we're deriving from that science
15 suggests that we need to reduce our emissions from
16 fossil fuel combustion to zero by the year 2035, to
17 have a better than two-thirds chance of avoiding
18 those critical tipping points where there is no
19 turning back from.

20 So, it's an exciting time. And, we
21 think there's also opportunity to do more and
22 approach the brevity of this crisis with more
23 certainty. There are some direct ways to
24 strengthen the existing energy plan that would
25 allow us to prevent construction of unneeded fossil

1 fuel infrastructure, like the seven natural gas
2 pipeline projects that are currently proposed in
3 the state. These projects saddle ratepayers with
4 unnecessary costs, both direct and indirect. And,
5 stand in the way of achieving one hundred percent
6 clean energy.

7 So, I will also echo my colleagues in
8 calling for -- we need a moratorium on new fossil
9 fuel projects. That has to be the starting point
10 of any plan to achieve one hundred percent
11 renewable energy. By continuing to rely on
12 natural gas that is now majority produced through
13 the process of hydraulic fracturing, we know that
14 the lifecycle greenhouse gas impact from that
15 system is very concerning. Methane, which is the
16 primary component of fracked gas, in its raw state
17 is up to 85 times more potent than carbon dioxide
18 as a greenhouse gas, when it's in its raw state and
19 in a twenty-year timeframe. What we see and what
20 we've seen is that the original estimates of
21 methane leakage throughout our energy system,
22 including at the production site, at the well
23 heads, at the processing stations through the
24 pipeline networks at the compressor stations, are
25 up to two to three times higher than what was

1 originally estimated. So, at a time when we must
2 critically draw down our emissions, we've been
3 investing in natural gas, which is actually pushing
4 us in the wrong direction because of this massive
5 leakage of methane that occurs throughout the
6 system.

7 We also need to, in this transition to
8 clean renewable energy, we cannot rely on false
9 solutions like cap and trade, carbon capture and
10 sequestration, or gas plants. Not only do these
11 solutions not deliver the outcomes that we need,
12 but they also perpetuate pollution in communities
13 who have already dealt with a disproportionate
14 impact from our current energy system.

15 So, when we look at achieving one
16 hundred percent clean energy, it is less important
17 when we get to one hundred percent and more
18 important what we do in the next ten years. If we
19 don't start to begin a dramatic draw down of
20 greenhouse gas emissions in the next ten years, we
21 will have missed the window of opportunity. So,
22 we call upon the Board of Public Utilities to
23 implement benchmarks that would get us to eighty
24 percent clean renewable energy by the year 2028,
25 and one hundred percent clean renewable energy by

1 the year 2035. In addition, we should have
2 bi-annual monitoring and reporting on these
3 benchmark targets.

4 The other issue is that clean energy
5 should actually be clean. In the current class of
6 renewable energy, Class I renewable energy included
7 dirty energy sources like methane from landfills,
8 biomass facilities, Class II includes trash
9 incineration. Many of the folks in this room are
10 intimately familiar with the devastation that these
11 dirty forms of energy have on our public health and
12 our environment. So, we must actually define
13 clean renewable energy sources as solar and wind,
14 as other colleagues have brought today.

15 Distributed solar policies should
16 focus on maximizing development and access to
17 community solar. We applaud the admission for the
18 new pilot program, but we also believe it should be
19 stronger by actually using the pilot to make
20 community solar available to more communities at a
21 faster rate. We also need to remove caps on net
22 metering. Those are archaic, outdated, and do not
23 represent the goals and intentions of an Energy
24 Master Plan to get to a hundred percent renewable
25 energy. We need to change building codes to

1 require that new construction is fitted with
2 on-site and/or roof top solar panels. The
3 Governor's off-shore wind plan is the right step
4 for New Jersey's energy future, so we need more
5 bold policy action like that.

6 As I mentioned, we definitely need to
7 reject market-based schemes. Allowing utilities to
8 purchase unbundled renewable energy credits creates
9 a system of offsets, whereby utilities send the
10 energy into the grid and offset that by purchasing
11 meaningless credits. Again, they create pollution
12 hot spots in environmental justice communities.
13 The state must only allow utilities to purchase
14 RECs from clean energy sources. And, the state
15 must ensure that RECs are bundled with the
16 electricity they actually represent. And, the
17 Energy Master Plan should not continue our reliance
18 on market-based schemes like cap and trade, which
19 quite simply do not work.

20 Energy efficiency is a bridge fuel
21 that we should be scaling up immediately. It can
22 reduce peak demand, and it can create good jobs in
23 local communities. New Jersey should implement an
24 energy efficiency portfolio standard that requires
25 utilities to scale up energy efficiency annually,

1 as well as institute polices that significantly
2 increase energy efficiency in the state, energy
3 efficiency programs. And I want to also echo and
4 close with saying -- echo another colleague and
5 close with saying that for too long communities of
6 color, low-income communities, have been
7 disproportionately burdened by the public health,
8 economic, social, and environmental impacts from
9 our polluting energy infrastructure in Jersey. I
10 want to uplift and amplify the community members
11 who live in Newark and organized with the
12 community, because for too long their voices and
13 their needs have been neglected within our state
14 energy policy. And, so, environmental justice must
15 be prioritized within the new Energy Master Plan.

16 Thank you very much.

17 MS. POWER: Kevin Corcoran. And then
18 Paula Rogavin, and then Ana Baptista.

19 MR. CORCORAN: Good afternoon. My
20 name is Kevin Corcoran. And, I'd like to speak to
21 you about the MPSE project. I'm a retired consumer
22 products company executive. I'm presently a Board
23 member of a community that is close to the
24 compressor station that the NESE, or northeast
25 supply enhancement project, is planning to put it.

1 I'm also a member of the South Brunswick task force
2 on the compressor station. Now, for those who are
3 not aware of it, the northeast supply enhancement
4 project has two major aspects. One is a
5 compressor station, a very large one, of 32,000
6 horsepower, that would be located next to the Trap
7 Rock Quarry. The other major part of it is 23
8 miles of pipeline that will be trenched in Raritan
9 Bay to take gas to the Rockaways. Okay.

10 Obviously, Raritan Bay in the past has been
11 something of a dead zone because of all the
12 pollution in the area. When you trench you're
13 going to be pulling all of that back up.

14 Now, my concerns are basically of two
15 natures in terms of this particular compressor
16 station. One in terms of safety, and the
17 pipelines that are downstream from the compressor
18 station -- and again, it's a very powerful one --
19 are approximately fifty years old. Okay. And,
20 there is concern about whether they could
21 potentially explode. There also are residential
22 communities quite close by. There's a 55 plus
23 community that's 800 yards away, the entrance of it
24 is 800 yards away from the compressor station.
25 And, I've gone so far as to proceed to get the

1 hazardous materials, pipeline hazardous materials.
2 And, they have a specific formula for the
3 calculation, what's known as a potential impact
4 radius. Okay. Now, there are two pipes in that
5 pipeline; one is 42-inch in diameter, and one is
6 30. The 42-inch in diameter one have potential
7 impact in terms of an explosion. Potential impact
8 of almost 300 yards in all directions. So, You're
9 speaking 300 yards towards that 800 yard away
10 entrance to a 55 plus community. Which is quite
11 concerning.

12 Now, the second thing that got me
13 involved -- again, I'm not an environmental --
14 excuse me, environmentalist by background, but I
15 built factories. But, what got me basically
16 significantly involved is Franklin Township in that
17 particular area does not have the ability to fight
18 a major forest fire. Williams TransCo would
19 basically shut off the gas from their control
20 center in Houston, Texas, and then basically ask
21 the local volunteer fire departments to proceed to
22 put out the fire. But again, Franklin Township
23 does not have the water pressure to fight a major
24 forest fire in that particular area. So,
25 understandably, very concern. It's also right

1 next to a quarry that will continue blasting until
2 approximately 2040. And, there also is a Superfund
3 site right next store, which is the Higgins Farms
4 Superfund site. So, altogether, a bit of a recipe
5 for disaster.

6 I also understand, I found out today,
7 that the DEP, the NJDEP, has cited them for
8 deficiencies in a recent letter stating that the
9 storm water run off from that site could
10 potentially cause flooding downstream. And,
11 downstream is a number of residential communities.
12 Okay. So, quite a concerning situation from a
13 safety point of view.

14 In terms of an infrastructure point of
15 view. As I mentioned, pipeline downstream is
16 approximately fifty years old. Some of it is not,
17 but most of it is fifty years old. My experience
18 in building factories, you don't build a factory --
19 this is a one billion dollar project, by the way --
20 you do not build a factory unless you're looking
21 for an extended life, let's say forty years. If
22 it does have a life of forty years, it's bumping up
23 against Governor Murphy's hundred percent renewable
24 by 2050 goal, because it would go in approximately
25 2020, that's only a thirty-year use of life. And

1 my understanding also is that they have a minimum
2 guaranteed rate of return when they put in the
3 pipeline.

4 Now, the gas and so forth going
5 through here is mainly for New York City. What
6 we're told by some of the engineers when we first
7 had a discussion with them on the project -- don't
8 worry, for the first couple of years we're only
9 going to use thirty percent of the capacity. The
10 question is beyond the first couple of years, where
11 is the gas going? What is the use of the initial
12 capacity associated with it? Now, there was a New
13 York Times article approximately two months back in
14 which they cited the high cost of power in New
15 England. And, what they also spoke of was the fact
16 there was cheap hydro-electric power available in
17 Canada that could be brought down to, let's say,
18 the Boston area. However, Vermont and New
19 Hampshire opposed the transmission lines to bring
20 the electricity down. Couple that with what you
21 got in New York State with New York State blocking
22 the constitution pipeline, for example. And, that
23 makes New Jersey the pipeline state, to basically
24 get gas from Pennsylvania up into New England.

25 What I would encourage you to do is

1 not allow it, basically, New Jersey to become a
2 pipeline state. I guarantee you the pipeline
3 companies have a master plan. I've actually gone
4 on the internet and seen that Williams TransCo was
5 contemplating a particular project that they filed
6 for two years ago, back in 2010. I actually have
7 a copy of a presentation on that. So, what I
8 would encourage you to do -- I think it's
9 commendable that you're proceeding to try and
10 develop a Master Plan for energy for New Jersey --
11 I would use your Master Plan to challenge their
12 infrastructure projects. Do you or did you not
13 want to go the way that they want us to go.
14 They're feeding us projects a little at a time.
15 Roseland, as Ted Glick spoke about, the compressor
16 station 206, which is now in South Brunswick and
17 Franklin. They're giving projects one at a time to
18 get easy approval. But, they have a master plan.
19 Please oppose it and challenge it. Thank you.

20 MS. POWER: Paula Rogavin. Ana
21 Baptista. And, Nicky Sheats.

22 MS. ROGAVIN: Thank you very much for
23 holding this hearing. I'm with a group called The
24 Coalition to Band Unsafe Oil Trains. And, I live a
25 couple of blocks from the trains that carry bakken

1 crude oil, and now tar sands crude oil through New
2 Jersey, through Bergen County, through Hudson,
3 through Jersey City, though Newark, and down to the
4 refineries. I'm also a mother, a grandmother, and
5 I'm a retired elementary school teacher. And, I
6 just retired after 44 years. And the reason I'm
7 saying that is that this hearing should be at
8 night. This is the first time I could ever go to
9 a hearing, because I'm usually teaching. And, so
10 many other people are working during the day. So
11 there should be some daytime hearings, and there
12 should be some in the evening.

13 I'm going to speak of what I'm going
14 to say is the relationship to children, because
15 they are the future. One; the New Jersey Master
16 Plan should address the current dangers of fossil
17 fuel, besides the impact on climate change. We're
18 concerned about the current transport of bakken
19 crude oil and tar sands crude oil by trains or
20 pipelines on rail. They run through the heart of
21 New Jersey and they put us in serious danger.
22 This crude oil explodes at a very, very low
23 temperature. And when it explodes, it's likes a
24 bomb. They're called bomb trains. And a train
25 carrying bakken crude oil derailed and exploded in

1 Lamarca Quebec, and 47 people were vaporized,
2 leaving 16 children orphans.

3 These trains are currently passing
4 schools and homes and playgrounds, downtown areas.
5 They spew their diesel engines spew the diesel
6 exhaust, which is really, really, really dangerous
7 for children and anyone with any kind of a lung
8 problem. They use sub-standard tank cars. And
9 our federal government unfortunately is not giving
10 them a longer time to transition to the safer -- if
11 there's anything safe -- the safer DOT 117 tank
12 cars. There are a lot of federal issues that
13 we're facing, and in our Master Plan for New Jersey
14 we have to deal with the reality that the federal
15 government is rolling back safety standards, rail
16 safety standards. And, probably standards from the
17 pipelines and so on. So we have to, in New
18 Jersey, find ways through our Oil Tank Safety Act
19 -- which we're trying to get passed, which Christie
20 vetoed and is now working its way through the
21 legislature. Again, we need safety regulations, an
22 increased number of safety regulations to combat
23 with what the federal government is doing with the
24 rollbacks.

25 The Governor -- and we're so happy

1 when the Governor made the commitment to transition
2 to a hundred percent renewable energy. But the
3 Meadowlands power plant, which is closer to where I
4 live in Teaneck, that power plant is the opposite
5 of any kind of thought to transition to renewable
6 energy. You don't put in a power plant that uses
7 gas, and it also will be using oil. And there will
8 be truck loads of oil brought into that power
9 plant. Why would we build, why would we commit to
10 giving permits for a power plant -- which somebody
11 mentioned before -- is outdated. It's not moving
12 us toward renewable energy. It will produce
13 energy for New York City, and pollution for New
14 Jersey and New York City.

15 One of the aspects of this power
16 plant, the proposed Meadowlands power plant, is
17 this issue of ozone, which really has a big impact
18 on children, on their lungs -- on everyone, on our
19 lungs. And, when we met with the DEP a month ago
20 in Trenton they said, well, they're a little over
21 in the allowed amount of ozone to be produced by
22 this Meadowlands power plant. But, they can get
23 credit. They can buy credit from any power plant,
24 old power plants that shut down. And, I had
25 trouble understanding this. And I taught first

1 grade, kindergarten, and I don't get this thing
2 about credits. I really don't. We can buy credit
3 for the power plants that shut down, the coal power
4 plants that shut down, but we get the pollution
5 anyway. We get the ozone in our lungs.

6 So, our Master Plan should not allow
7 the purchase, the sale of credits. It's fake.
8 It's phony. And, it doesn't address the issue of
9 pollution. It's for the money-makers, perhaps.
10 This power plant would use natural gas, but that's
11 not natural gas. It's not natural. Be brought
12 in by pipelines susceptible to leaking. It's
13 fracked. It's the oil that they would bring in is
14 fracked. If we brought it by diesel trucks 24/7,
15 diesel trucks, and diesel -- I'm sure you know --
16 has particulate matter that's very, very, very
17 dangerous. It makes no sense financially or for
18 the future, for our children, our grandchildren,
19 our earth, to allow even one, even one fossil fuel
20 investment approval, for even one.

21 An interesting thing is that
22 Mitsubishi Diamond Generating Corporation, that
23 wants to build the Meadowlands project, you know
24 they have a whole solar component to their
25 portfolio. Why they're proposing this one is

1 something we have to find out, as we're fighting
2 against the proposal. It's an insult to the
3 people of New Jersey that there were already
4 permits from the state DEP for the Meadowlands
5 project. It's an insult to us. And, it's counter
6 to any kind of plan to transition us to renewable
7 energy.

8 So, we must transition to renewable
9 energy sources. There's that expression, beat
10 swords into plow shares and turning, allocate
11 resources for peace, for peace instead of war.
12 Well, in our situation we want to reallocate funds
13 for supporting the fossil fuel industry, to the
14 production research and production of renewable
15 sources. We need to, and part of the plan should
16 involve community colleges, four -year colleges and
17 universities in this effort in the research to find
18 more ways for use -- more ways we can use and bring
19 about renewable energy.

20 You know, New Jersey is the garden
21 state. And we should really make it the garden
22 state. We should remove the eyesores. So, we
23 have to transition rapidly to renewable energy, but
24 this plan, there should be a moratorium on the use
25 of any kind of fossil fuel projects; but,

1 legislation to remove the remnants of the old
2 fossil fuel generation. The refineries, the large
3 tanks along Route 95, the compressor stations and
4 pipelines. We've got to get rid of them. That
5 has to be written into the plan. And we can
6 perhaps some of those eyesores which will never,
7 because they're so polluted, maybe we can turn them
8 into solar farms and into wind farms, and turn
9 something that's really hideous and horrible and
10 out of date, into something to make our state clean
11 and green.

12 The Master Plan should have an outline
13 of all the sites that were fossil fuel, and how it
14 can transition them to renewable energy. Also, I
15 would like to see that we decentralize the power
16 grid so that communities can work -- and many are
17 working very hard to transition themselves to
18 renewable energy. And, so, I think we need the
19 state and the federal government to help towns and
20 cities to take those initiatives to transition.

21 MS. POWER: I was remiss in thanking
22 and welcoming my colleagues of the BPU. Just want
23 to introduce yourselves briefly? Who are all,
24 also, working actively on the Master Plan.

25 MR. HORNSBY: Mike Hornsby at the

1 Office of Policy and planning.

2 MR. SHEEHAN: Good evening. My name
3 is Ken Sheehan, I am the Director of the Division
4 of Clean Energy.

5 MS. SADOVY: Hello. I'm Christine
6 Sadovy, Director of Operations.

7 MS. POWER: Ana Baptista. Nicky
8 Sheats, and then Maria Lopez.

9 MS. BAPTISTA: Good evening. I
10 appreciate the opportunity to comment on the EMT,
11 the Energy Master Plan. My name is Ana Baptista.
12 I'm a professor at the New School, and also a
13 member of the New Jersey Alliance, Justice
14 Alliance, as well as on the Board of the Ironbound
15 Community Corporation, which is a local
16 organization here in Newark.

17 I want to echo the concerns of all my
18 colleagues in the room here who echoed concerns
19 about the meetings. There were several meetings,
20 four meetings in Mercer County in the middle of the
21 day. And my colleague and I, Nicky Sheats, are
22 part of this Executive Order 23 regarding
23 environmental justice steering committee, and I
24 thought isn't it ironic that the Governor has
25 signed an Executive Order on environmental justice,

1 and yet one of the most important pieces of policy
2 being constructed are hosting meetings in the
3 middle of the day without little input from the
4 environmental justice communities. I'm glad you're
5 having this meeting, but I also want to encourage
6 you to think about how much more you can do to
7 really reach out to the folks that couldn't be here
8 tonight because of the short notice, and also for
9 the timing of the event, the accessibility of the
10 event.

11 And, I do want to remind all of you
12 about the commitment that Governor Murphy has made
13 under the Executive Order 23 to environmental
14 justice and integrating that into all of the
15 state's plans and priorities.

16 I want to start by making a few
17 comments and recommendations on the EMP effort.
18 First and foremost, we are here in Newark, which is
19 the home to an extensive amount of energy
20 infrastructure, fossil fuel energy infrastructure.
21 And that energy infrastructure disproportionately
22 impacts communities of color and low-income
23 communities, which we refer to often as
24 environmental justice communities. So, I want to
25 ensure that the next EMP really takes into

1 consideration an effort to mitigate
2 disproportionate emissions that already exist in
3 those places where fossil fuel energy
4 infrastructures are already located, and
5 overburdening EJ communities. Things like a
6 moratorium on future fossil fuel infrastructure
7 should be considered and should be put into place,
8 because Newark is a testimony to the harmful
9 effects of the fossil fuel industry, particularly
10 when they're concentrated in densely populated
11 areas of the state.

12 We are home to the Newark Energy
13 Center, a 655 megawatt power plant. The Newark Bay
14 CoGen. The PSE&G Peaker Station. So, we're
15 already overburdened by multiple accumulative
16 disproportionate emissions in this community. And
17 the cruel irony of this burden is that the
18 residents of Newark, and the surrounding areas,
19 represent relatively the least consumptive parts of
20 our society. They're the most energy insecure
21 members of our society, and yet they bear the brunt
22 of our energy infrastructure. So, you should
23 ensure that the EMP, in its next iteration, makes
24 significant investments in environmental justice
25 communities to reduce existing emissions from these

1 industries, and also to reduce energy burdens in
2 these communities. You should be looking at how
3 you can both build the wealth of LMI communities
4 through your investments.

5 Currently, efforts like the SBC, the
6 societal Benefit charge, nuclear subsidies, these
7 are regressive taxes on the most impacted
8 communities. They pay disproportionately into
9 these funds relative to their incomes, and relative
10 to the benefits that they reap from these
11 incentives. Most of the funding that they pay
12 into the system goes to higher income individuals
13 who are accessing high capital cost investments,
14 like solar PV on their homes. Very few of our
15 residents ever see the benefits of renewable energy
16 and solar projects in this community. So, I want
17 to encourage you to think about what are the real
18 incentives that you can build into the EMP that
19 will ensure that our communities reap those
20 benefits.

21 And, we have some suggestions about
22 the exact investments. I know in the past there
23 have been efforts to reach LMI communities through
24 specific programs. But, we believe that you need
25 to make a mandate to devote at least 33 percent of

1 clean energy funds to EJ communities, and to set
2 aside up to forty percent for things like community
3 solar for low and moderate-income customers. We
4 should think about using factors or multipliers
5 that would incentivize projects that serve
6 low-income customers, particularly those in public
7 housing or low-income service organizations.

8 The EMP should include opportunities
9 for community based energy planning. A lot of the
10 reasons why the existing programs don't reach LMI
11 communities is because they don't really understand
12 the need and the correct incentive levels that will
13 reach those communities. We need bottom up
14 assessments of the energy needs in communities.
15 Is solar the only thing our communities need? No.
16 A lot of our energy needs in LMI communities come
17 from heating. You know, old appliances, poor
18 insulation. These are things that are
19 misunderstood or not well understood in our
20 communities. There has not been a significant
21 assessment of energy needs. Other communities and
22 other parts of the country have undertaken
23 community based energy assessment planning. And we
24 recommend that that be part of your plan, so we can
25 better understand the needs of these households.

1 I want to encourage that we try to
2 reduce energy consumption and make these incentives
3 available to low-income households, because
4 programs like LIHE don't really get at the energy
5 consumption of these homes. They don't really
6 build the wealth and bring savings into the
7 household. They play an important role and
8 subsidize energy bills, but they don't really help
9 address the energy insecurity of these homes. I
10 want to really emphasis that the EMP should
11 eliminate the inclusion in the state's energy
12 portfolio or further incentives to Class II
13 renewables like garbage incineration, biomass,
14 nuclear. And, garbage incineration is of
15 particular concern to us because we understand that
16 this industry continues to try to be included in
17 new and different ways, and not just as Class II
18 renewables, but find other ways to be subsidized as
19 ways to energy. What they are is a waste of
20 energy. Garbage incinerators, like the facility
21 that Covanta runs here in Newark, New Jersey emits
22 hundreds of pounds annually of criteria air
23 pollutants as well as HAPs, hazardous air
24 pollutants, in an already overburdened community.
25 When they receive Class II renewable energy

1 credits, what you're essentially doing is
2 incentivizing the burning of garbage. And, you're
3 taking away incentives to divert waste from the
4 system. They want to burn more to make more
5 money. And if we can stop subsidizing them as a
6 renewable energy, which they're not, that would
7 help us also meet our waste management goals.
8 I'll just mention that per unit of energy produced,
9 both in terms of greenhouse gases and air toxins
10 like mercury and carbon monoxide, garbage
11 incinerators produce more per kilowatt hour in
12 terms of emissions than coal plants. So they're
13 not clean.

14 EMP should reinsure that renewable
15 energy and energy efficiency investments like solar
16 installations include opportunities for local
17 employment, community ownership, distributed
18 generation and storage, and energy independence.
19 We don't want to just see solars on sticks. We
20 don't just want to see solar on individual
21 middle-income households. We want to see energy
22 and solar installations and wind installations go
23 into the hands of residents who are tenants, who
24 are renters, who pool their resources and can own a
25 piece of that solar future. So, we really want to

1 encourage community ownership of renewable energy.

2 Finally, I just want to say a little
3 bit about the transparency of this process, and of
4 your future goals for the EMP. As a researcher
5 and looking at different state's investments in
6 renewable energy and urban energy efficiency, it's
7 very difficult to track where these investments are
8 going. So, I want to encourage increased
9 transparency of this next EMP so that we know where
10 the funding is going, and in what communities are
11 benefiting from your investments.

12 And, lastly, we know that you're
13 meeting individually and with different
14 sector-specific stakeholders. I really, really
15 want to encourage you to reach out to organizations
16 that are here in this room tonight, and others
17 around the state, who represent environmental
18 justice communities, to have individual meetings
19 with those sectors. They have important insight
20 and input into this plan. And, I encourage you to
21 engage with them early and often throughout this
22 process, and not just in this venue. So, I hope
23 you take that opportunity to meet with us and all
24 of these folks here, to learn more about this
25 important work that we're doing here in Newark and

1 other places in the state on energy efficiency and
2 renewable energy. So, thank you for the
3 opportunity to comment.

4 MS. POWER: Next, Nicky Sheats. And
5 then we have Maria Lopez-Nunez. And, Reverend
6 Tuff.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Maria Lopez-Nunez
8 is not here.

9 MS. POWER: Okay.

10 MR. SHEATS: Hi. Good afternoon.
11 Thank you for the opportunity to comment again.
12 So, I work at Thomas Edison State University where
13 I run a small policy center called -- my name is
14 Nicky Sheats, by the way -- I run a small policy
15 center called the Center for Urban Environment,
16 it's a part of the policy institute called the
17 Watson Institute of Public Policy, it's at Thomas
18 Edison State University in Trenton. And, I'm also
19 a member of -- that Professor Baptista testified
20 before me -- a member of the New Jersey EJ
21 Alliance.

22 And, I'll say a little bit about the
23 Alliance. We're the only statewide organization in
24 New Jersey that focuses on EJ issues. And we're
25 the only -- and although we are well-integrated, we

1 are also the only statewide organization in Jersey
2 that focuses on, that addresses environmental
3 issues, which is a majority of color in both
4 membership and leadership. We're a small
5 organization, but we've been become national
6 leaders in developing public policy from an EJ
7 perspective.

8 And, we fear that when it comes to
9 energy policy and climate change policy, that if
10 they're developed in a business-as-usual manner,
11 they're going to perpetuate or exacerbate the
12 current inequalities that exist in our country
13 based on race and income. And, in order to avoid
14 that, we have to integrate environmental justice
15 equity into energy policy up front. So, what that
16 means is that don't figure out how you're going to
17 produce the energy and implement that, if you put
18 the infrastructure in and produce the energy and
19 make sure it's reliable, and then say we're going
20 to get to environmental justice and equity later.
21 No. It should be done at the same time.

22 We filed comments in 2008, we filed
23 comments in 2011. We reiterated in the short
24 letter, we reiterated those comments in 2016 and
25 '17, and in all of those comments we called for a

1 coherent, so, one way to implement equity or
2 integrate equity into the policy. We've been
3 calling for years for a coherent urban energy
4 strategy that addresses environmental justice
5 issues. So, we're going to call for that again
6 tonight. And, I'll talk about some of the
7 components. And, I'm going to echo Professor
8 Baptista in several of the things she said --
9 doesn't hurt to hear it twice -- and, we'll submit
10 them in our written comments, also.

11 So, here are some of the components
12 that should be in a coherent urban energy strategy
13 for New Jersey. Professor Baptista mentioned
14 this, but let me mention this first. Siting
15 issues. There is evidence that comes from the New
16 Jersey Department of Environmental Protection --
17 and we'll cite that in our comments -- that shows
18 that in New Jersey there's a disproportionate
19 amount of pollution in EJ neighborhoods. And they
20 actually have graphs, and they did a report and
21 they have the graphs. And, you see that as the
22 number of people of color live in a community in
23 New Jersey goes up, so does the pollution, or the
24 estimate of the pollution. And it's same thing for
25 people living in poverty. But remember, the poor

1 people who live in the neighborhood in New Jersey
2 increases, so does the amount of pollution. I
3 think we all agree that this is unacceptable. And
4 we need to use the Energy Master Plan to break up
5 what we call this unholy relationship between race,
6 class, and collusion. But again, we don't want
7 the Energy Master Plan to perpetuate or exacerbated
8 it, we want it to be used to reduce this.

9 So, siting issues. There should be
10 no polluting energy infrastructure sited -- no more
11 new energy infrastructure sited, polluting energy
12 infrastructure sited in communities of color and
13 low-income communities and over burdened
14 communities. And, where possible, energy
15 efficiency renewable energy should be used to
16 reduce the disproportionate amount of pollution in
17 these neighborhoods. Now, we know that energy
18 efficiency usually reduces energy coming from the
19 grid, so it's not place specific. But, we need to
20 come up with new ideas and any way the energy
21 efficiency or renewable energy can be used to make
22 place-specific emission reductions. That's what we
23 should do. And, the pollution we want to reduce
24 -- I mean, everybody talks about climate change,
25 reducing greenhouse gas emissions -- but, we also

1 really want to use climate change policy to reduce
2 the local pollution along with the greenhouse
3 gases. Because that's what's killing people in
4 our communities now. So, we want to get that
5 pollution as well as greenhouse gas pollution.
6 And, we do actually have a recommendation. We
7 oppose RGGI, but we're not able -- it doesn't look
8 like we're going to be able to stop the state from
9 going in. But, we made a proposal that would
10 mandate a reduction in plants located in EJ
11 communities under RGGI. So, the Energy Master Plan
12 could be a compliment to that, and also help reduce
13 emissions in EJ communities.

14 So, I talked some about renewable
15 energy and energy efficiency. Let's talk a little
16 bit more about that. I'm going to echo what
17 Professor Baptista said, and say that we should put
18 aside at least 33 percent of the funds in the clean
19 energy fund to address the energy needs, or make
20 sure -- address the energy needs of EJ communities,
21 and make sure that energy efficiency and renewable
22 energy are accessible in EJ communities. When I
23 say EJ communities, I mean communities of color and
24 low-income communities. And solar, in our
25 community solar comments, I think we suggested that

1 at least 24 percent of customers that should set
2 aside, at least 24 percent of customers in
3 community solar should be low and middle-income,
4 and at least 10.4 percent of those should be
5 low-income. That's the rate of poverty in New
6 Jersey. And, we think that that is also true for
7 energy efficiency programs, and all new renewable
8 energy programs, and that should be before. So, I
9 haven't read the community solar regulations yet,
10 but if it's higher than that we're happy about
11 that.

12 Community energy planning. Let me
13 say a few more words about that. Professor
14 Baptista talked some about that. We want to make
15 sure that renewable energy projects and energy
16 efficiency is planned on the community level and
17 have community folks involved in the plan. Now
18 that usually doesn't happen. But we want to make
19 sure community residents, EJ groups, and community
20 groups are involved in energy planning, so that
21 local residents in EJ communities are not just
22 consumers of energy, but they also make decisions
23 that affect how the energy is produced in their
24 community. Along with that idea, we want to
25 introduce the idea of community energy utility that

1 would gather capital and then use that capital to
2 invest in energy efficiency, renewable energy,
3 specifically in environmental justice communities.
4 I want to say both of these ideas originated from
5 the Center of Urban Democracy in Minneapolis who in
6 their staff of energy experts on -- well, they're
7 experts on environmental justice and energy.

8 So, let me close by saying, echoing
9 again something Professor Baptista said. One thing
10 that we think community energy planning would yield
11 or help in, is maximizing the co-benefits to EJ
12 communities of energy production. So, again, we
13 don't want EJ communities just to be consumers of
14 energy, we want them to make decisions about the
15 energy production in their neighborhoods. We want
16 to make sure that they have opportunity to own, we
17 want to promote ownership of renewable energy in EJ
18 communities. That's one way of using energy
19 production to improve the economic condition of EJ
20 neighborhoods. But not only ownership, but we
21 want to make sure that residents in EJ communities
22 have access to jobs produced by energy production.
23 Entrepreneurship opportunities. And, basically, we
24 want to make urban areas center of energy
25 innovation and research and education. We also

1 want to link the energy production system to the
2 public schools in the inner cities. And, I don't
3 know how many of you heard me say this in the
4 community solar comments, but I'll say it again.
5 One of our visions is that the urban areas in New
6 Jersey will not only be known for producing sports
7 stars, and we are proud of the sports stars, but
8 we also want our urban areas to be known for
9 producing energy experts. And, for New Jersey to
10 be known for producing energy experts from
11 environmental justice communities.

12 I'll end by saying, also, with clean
13 energy we do want clean energy defined as wind,
14 solar -- and, as Professor Baptista says, we oppose
15 incineration, and we don't think nuclear should be
16 classified as clean energy either. We think that
17 will not only help everybody, but in particular we
18 think that would help EJ communities. And, we
19 really would like to meet with you, New Jersey EJ
20 Alliance, and some other EJ groups, maybe Ironbound
21 Community Corporation. And, we can talk about some
22 of the ideas that we presented, because even though
23 they're here, we want to be partners with you in
24 implementing these ideas. Thank you.

25 MS. POWER: Nicky, I'll reach out to

1 you so we can set up something up.

2 MR. SHEATS: Okay. Thank you. That
3 would be great.

4 MS. POWER: Reverend Tuff. Kim Gaddy
5 from Clean Water Action are you here now?

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes.

7 MS. POWER: Jeff Tittel will be next.
8 I don't see him here. Imelda Foley. Sally
9 Gellert.

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes.

11 MS. POWER: Melissa Miles.

12 MS. GADDY: Good evening. And
13 apologize for being late, but I'm one of those
14 residents that has to pick up their child from
15 school, and then come here to this meeting.

16 But, my name is Kim Gaddy. I'm a
17 fourth generation Newarker. I'm the environmental
18 justice organizer for Clean Water Action. In the
19 State of New Jersey we have 125,000 members.
20 Nationwide we have 1.5 million.

21 And, so, as I proceed, I just want you
22 all to have a paradigm shift in the way you think
23 about energy for a few moments. So, as you look
24 at this Energy Master Plan, I think you need to
25 look at -- well, I know you need to look at it

1 through a lens of environmental justice and energy
2 democracy. Energy democracy enables a community to
3 have ownership and control of the resources, with
4 shared responsibilities and decision-making
5 authority that involves all stakeholders. And
6 resilience of our nation's communities, as well.
7 Energy democracy must be issued and talked about
8 from a critical framework. Addressing the economic
9 and racial inequalities that exist in the State of
10 New Jersey. Energy democracy seeks to refrain
11 energy from being a commodity that is commercially
12 exploited, and instead appreciated and respected in
13 our ecosystem. Energy democracy sees renewable
14 energy resources as enabling a new alternative
15 economy. A regenerative rather than an extracted
16 economy, one that builds our economic strengths and
17 resilience.

18 The new economy model is characterized
19 by community-based development. Not exploitative
20 forms of production, socialized capital.
21 Ecological use of natural resources and sustainable
22 economic relationships. By contrast when you look
23 at our current economy, it's built on the fossil
24 fuel energy. It has achieved vast increases in
25 labor productivity by exploiting our natural

1 resources and human labor, to accumulate capital
2 and create huge corporate empires.

3 Now, I want to focus on my community
4 and where I come from. And, I'll look at it from
5 the lens of transportation. As a south ward
6 resident in the City of Newark, I live seven
7 minutes from the port and the airport. On a daily
8 basis 14,000 trucks travel through our port.
9 3,500 to 4,000 of those trucks stay on our local
10 roads. These trucks that travel through our
11 community are emitting pollution. I'm a parent of
12 three -- that's my youngest, my fourteen year old
13 up there. And, I have three children, all three of
14 them are asthmatic. And that's because,
15 unfortunately, we are disproportionately polluted
16 upon because of the zip code we reside in and the
17 color of our skin. And, so, when you think about
18 that, there is an imbalance and an injustice from
19 the transportation side. So, you have to look at
20 the transportation from an EJ perspective.

21 The New Jersey ports and the logistics
22 industry, the goods movement, must establish zero
23 emission zones, ZEZ, both within the port and
24 outside, in the neighborhood and within the
25 warehouses and/or other destinations. Electric

1 equipment vehicles and trucks should only be
2 allowed to operate within these ZEZ zones.
3 Electric power hookups must be established within
4 the port, and the these ZEZ destinations should
5 allow for power recharging and loading bays, as
6 well as rest areas for the truck drivers. Also,
7 you have to look at automatic shut offs should be
8 required within all of the trucks and the logistics
9 industry.

10 When you talk about funding, we know
11 that the Volkswagon settlements funding, CMAC,
12 DERA, and private monies from these terminal
13 operators, should be used to fund these ZEZ zones.
14 The use of the Volkswagon settlement dollars should
15 be prioritized in our EJ communities where climate
16 and diesel vehicle emissions are the greatest and
17 most impactful. These funds should help amplify
18 support, and complement stronger provisions of the
19 updated EMP.

20 Now, as we move towards zero-emission
21 vehicles, that should include our public modes of
22 transportation, our ride shares, our public fleets,
23 as well as our personal vehicles. That's critical
24 to addressing climate change and global warming in
25 the State of New Jersey, more importantly in the EJ

1 neighborhoods first. We experience the heat allen
2 effect, typically, it's ten degrees hotter in my
3 neighborhood than if you go up to Livingston or
4 South Orange. The reduction of diesel soot, the
5 black carbon in the transportation sector will keep
6 temperatures down much faster and cheaper than CO2
7 reduction efforts. The mass transportation --
8 well, mass transit offers options for reducing
9 greenhouse gases, their co-pollutants, the heavy
10 metals, the ozone precursors NOx and SOx and
11 corresponding health arms, but not if the buses and
12 vans are run on dirty diesel engines.

13 We have some -- I mean, the technology
14 exists that we should not be having 2011 and 2000
15 buses riding through my neighborhood in the City of
16 Newark and any of the other urban corridors.
17 Drivers, riders, and walkers are all exposed to
18 diesel particulate PM2.5 and ultra fines causing
19 high incidents of asthma, cancer, strokes, and
20 premature deaths and related healthcare costs.

21 As I mentioned earlier, transportation
22 is an environmental justice issue that affects
23 community of color and low-income people, both in
24 terms of access to mass transit as in proximity
25 mode of getting to work. And, as well as,

1 concentrated goods movements, activity, in and
2 around our ports. And, so, I am hoping that as
3 you review and hear from all of the other
4 stakeholders coming here today, that you keep in
5 mind that it is about changing the lens you look
6 through to include the EJ communities, those front
7 line communities that are hit the hardest. And, as
8 well as energy democracy, understanding that we
9 have to have control of what happens in our
10 neighborhood. We have to have a voice, and we must
11 have a seat at the table. And, as so many people
12 have articulated, I'm on that committed with Dr.
13 Ana Baptista and Dr. Nicky Sheats for the Executive
14 Order 23.

15 And, it is problematic to call
16 meetings at four o'clock, when you have children
17 that get out of school at three o'clock or 3:30.
18 Right? I couldn't even go home and cook dinner for
19 my child. So, if you begin to have a paradigm
20 shift in how you think and you discuss what is real
21 community engagement, you would understand that a
22 meeting at four o'clock is not community
23 engagement. And, is actually excluding the voices
24 that should be here. So, I'll leave you with
25 that. Have a good day.

1 MS. POWER: Sally Gellert. Followed
2 by Bernadette Maher.

3 MS. GELLERT: Good afternoon. I'm
4 Sally Gellert, speaking first on behalf of
5 Unitarian Universal Faith Action of New Jersey, and
6 later on on behalf of the Lackawanna Coalition.
7 I'd like to thank both groups for letting me speak.

8 The UU Faith Action of New Jersey,
9 comment stakeholders on transportations, which is
10 about 41 percent of the energy consumed here in New
11 Jersey. Our comments based on Unitarian
12 principals, including respect for the
13 inter-dependent of all existence, and the worth and
14 dignity of every human-being.

15 Today we focus primarily on two of the
16 questions about transportation; our ports and
17 improving the variety and reliability of various
18 types of mass transit. Frankly, I couldn't say
19 much better than Ms. Gaddy said about the ports
20 situation. That's the largest piece of complex
21 logistics industry, including a growing number of
22 warehouses and distribution centers, light industry
23 manufacturing, service -- industries. The
24 widespread use of 20 to 50-foot long containers
25 have fostered an industry based on both independent

1 contractors to all those containers from port to
2 destination in the greater metropolitan area.
3 These individuals often cannot afford the newer
4 engines that would cut down on air pollution, yet
5 corporations don't want to pay for the upgrades.
6 Port Authority and/or the state government needs to
7 ensure that these conversions to electric vehicles
8 take place, or to even just low -- for bio-fuels
9 and therefore without bankrupting the drivers.

10 From an energy conservation
11 perspective, when these truck drivers are forced to
12 idle their engines while waiting for directions
13 they're wasting fuel, creating air pollution, and
14 not getting -- when these engines are idling for
15 more than three minutes, they're actually breaking
16 the law, and into the dangers of asthma and
17 respiratory illness the EJ communities surrounding
18 the port areas. UUFA today supports efforts to
19 improve the air quality, safety, and security, as
20 well as the working conditions pro-workers could
21 support before commerce. These goals can be
22 reached concurrently if the Port Authority
23 controlled with the operation issues, rather than
24 simply delegating operations to a for-profit
25 corporation.

1 Regarding potential strategies for NJ
2 Transit from energy commitment to clean
3 transportation, we suggest encouraging use of
4 public transportation by better marketing and focus
5 on reliability, which of course is a major issue
6 right now. It's particularly important to work on
7 first and last mile solutions. People are rarely
8 willing to walk more than a quarter of a mile or a
9 half mile post to get to a bus or a train. Create
10 subscription-based shuttles and on-demand call or
11 ride services electric to train stations to local
12 pick-up points.

13 I'll transition here to my role as
14 communications director for the Lackawanna
15 Coalition. Both groups will be submitting slightly
16 longer written testimony. The Lackawanna
17 Coalition advocates on behalf of New Jersey Transit
18 riders and their communities, and has done so since
19 1979. We got our start in Millburn on the Morris
20 and Essex rail line, which was originally
21 electrified by Thomas Edison himself. More
22 Transit use is an essential part of the solution to
23 the current environmental problems. We need to
24 have much more than we have today, with everybody
25 encouraged to use it. We'd like to see zero car

1 and one care households encouraged so that
2 multi-car households are seen as wasteful. This
3 requires an extensive rail network with previously
4 abandoned lines of rights of way to rail passenger
5 service and trains running frequently on every
6 line. So the passenger is accommodated, with space
7 for freight movements, as well. This would require
8 a significantly expanded rail network with as many
9 lines electrified as possible, which are -- during
10 this previous century, and with more frequent
11 services offered now. If you look at a map and
12 compare rail lines of 1901 to today, we've lost a
13 lot. We also need light rail and bus networks
14 that would provide connectivity for shorter trips,
15 including the first and last mile of lengthy trips.

16 Until 2010, New Jersey Transit offered
17 rail fares outside peak commuting hours that were
18 discounted enough to encourage price sense to
19 riders to take the train when there is sufficient
20 capacity. Such discounts are still offered on New
21 York's Long Island Railroad and Metro North. We
22 have consistently called for these off-peak fares
23 to be restored, and there should be enough off-peak
24 service to be convenient for riders. Ideally every
25 thirty minutes or so. The availability of these

1 trains helps make the system work even for
2 commuters called home unexpectedly, need to stay
3 late. Running these trains as full as possible for
4 the fewer full fare riders is ultimately more
5 profitable overall. It should go without saying
6 that in the short term we need full restoration in
7 January of what's being cut next week.

8 We call for a moratorium on new
9 highway construction with only sufficient
10 expenditures to keep them in good repair. And for
11 most capitals funding to be redirected into
12 projects that would expand the existing Transit
13 network. It would produce a moderate expansion
14 while using billions of dollars of capital funds.
15 We are currently seeing gateway following the arc
16 path, and figured as a huge expensive project, way
17 more than needed. We don't need Penn South, even
18 if developers -- in a full block of -- real estate.
19 We need useful tunnels now. Let's cut gateway down
20 to an affordable size and get it done quickly.
21 Transit is inherently more efficient for carrying
22 passengers than highways. A double track rail line
23 can carry as many people as 24 highway lanes.
24 Large scale automobile use, even if electric,
25 requires large scale automobile storage which paves

1 over land and precludes other uses of that land,
2 with strongly negative environmental impacts.
3 Instead, let's look at the transit systems of the
4 four New Jersey cities with the highest number of
5 car-free households. Newark is number two in the
6 country, after New York City. Jersey City is
7 number three, Paterson number 12, and Elizabeth
8 number 15. Rather than replicating these systems
9 exactly, we would like to see connecting transit
10 among those cities, suburban and rural areas,
11 offering a variety of environments connected by
12 transit helping us as a state break our auto
13 addiction, and substantially cutting the
14 transportation percentage of the state's energy
15 use. Although electrically powered motor vehicles
16 are expected to constitute some improvement over
17 gasoline and diesel engines, particularly
18 eliminating particulates that cause asthmas and
19 other respiratory diseases, the overall goal must
20 be less energy use and less use of fuel per person,
21 which requires the efficiency of an extensive
22 transit network that provides frequent service and
23 connectivity. In addition, creating a vastly
24 electric vehicles that would require a great deal
25 of cobalt and other minerals that may well not be

1 available, particularly at affordable cost. And
2 obtaining it will in itself create a great deal of
3 environmental disruption and damage.

4 Considering Governor Murphy's proposal
5 of the 3.5 megawatts of off-shore wind, we see a
6 great opportunity for this energy to be used to
7 power electric rail as the ducts already do. In
8 summary, all transit is greener than the greenest
9 automobiles. And, it has been neglected for too
10 long. The best thing we can do regarding clean and
11 reliable transportation in an updated Master Plan
12 is to emphasize more transit, encourage more people
13 to use it, and provide enough of it so they will.
14 Thank you.

15 MS. POWER: Just a quick reminder, we
16 do have a court reporter here, and I am a fast
17 talker as well, but please remember to slow down
18 just a little bit.

19 Melissa Miles. We'll then have Drew
20 Curtis and Joseph Fave.

21 MS. MILES: Good evening. And thank
22 you for the opportunity to speak on the Energy
23 Master Plan for 2019. My name is Melissa Miles,
24 and I'm the environmental justice manager for
25 Ironbound Community Corporation.

1 Ironbound Community Corporation, or
2 ICC, is a local community-based organization, grass
3 roots base building. So, we really are working
4 with Newark residents to build the future and
5 vision of the kind of community we want to have.
6 And, basically, for the last 49 years have been
7 alongside the community responding to environmental
8 threats as they arise or as we are made aware of
9 them.

10 If you're not familiar with the
11 environmental justice history of Newark and the
12 ironbound, you can go to our website, it's
13 ironboundcc.org. But, it's something that, you
14 know, based on the fact that we're an environmental
15 justice, environment justice community of concern,
16 and Governor Murphy's Executive Order 23 which
17 mandates state agencies to take these things into
18 account when building new infrastructure, making
19 plans and decisions. It's really a relevant point
20 that Newark is an environmental justice community
21 of concern, that deals with the burden of energy
22 infrastructure, as well as economic issues that my
23 colleagues have spoken about that also make our
24 energy burden grossly unfair.

25 So, the thing that I mainly want to

1 speak about is this process. So, you know, there
2 are lots of community members in the room, lots of
3 folks who we are in coalition with who basically
4 get paid to do things like this. They get paid to
5 come at four o'clock on a Thursday to speak with
6 you all. But, you know, in terms of regular
7 people, this process was really completely
8 inaccessible. And, you know, before I started
9 this work I might not have even thought twice about
10 that, you know, energy, Energy Master Plan. It's
11 something I might have assumed, did not concern me.
12 But now that I understand that not only the rates
13 that our folks pay, the fact that we have the
14 Newark Energy Center which was a gift of Chris
15 Christie until our community fought that, but we
16 have it any way, was called for in the 2011 Master
17 Plan. Now that I understand that the energy
18 infrastructure, our rates, whether we have access
19 to energy efficiency, renewable energy, are really
20 determined by processes like this. I had to get
21 paid first before I realized that. And I really
22 feel like it's the responsibility of the BPU to
23 make this process more accessible to regular people
24 whose lives are directly impacted by the decisions
25 that you make. And, so, the fact that there were

1 many meetings, there were four meetings, it wasn't
2 until there were complaints made that a meeting was
3 planned for Newark and Camden. And, I find that
4 to be really incredulous, especially considering
5 folks like Nicky Sheats, Dr. Baptista, I read their
6 comments from 2011, from 2015, and they've already
7 talked about these processes. We talked about
8 them also in the comments for the community solar,
9 what these kind of hearings should actually look
10 like if you want community participation. I feel
11 like it's really pretty clear. And, so for this to
12 happen in this way again it reiterates that the
13 system and the process is actually designed to
14 exclude people of low income, designed to exclude
15 working-class people, designed to exclude people
16 from communities that are most impacted by energy,
17 by dirty energy infrastructure. And that's a
18 problem.

19 So, we really want, you know, from the
20 very start to be included in these processes.
21 Also, you know, issues of capacity. So, you know,
22 how are regular people supposed to even access the
23 information, the tools that they need to be able to
24 understand these processes. I'm really impressed
25 when folks who are able to get up here and just

1 talk about all the facts and all the -- but,
2 really, again, for people who this is not their
3 job, you know, how are they supposed to really
4 access the information and the tools that they need
5 to be able to participate in this, which should be
6 a democratic process.

7 So, it really has to start from the
8 place of, like, what are you all doing to get into
9 communities before you're asked, actually, or
10 you're mandated, get in to communities and share
11 resource in a way that allows people to participate
12 in the process. And, so, that starts before the
13 hearing, actually. By the time we get to the
14 hearing, people are kind of expected to get up here
15 with something to say. But how could you have
16 something to say if you don't really know what this
17 process is about.

18 And then also the outreach for the
19 process. I didn't see any real outreach. There
20 are people from our community that are here, we
21 invited them. And, you know, so, again, we're
22 taking communities that are already burdened, and
23 organizations that are small and grass roots, and
24 we're putting the burden on them to figure this out
25 and navigate this process. And, again, it's just

1 unfair. And, so, like some of my colleagues are
2 saying, I really again implore you, there needs to
3 be a much more transparent, democratic process
4 around the Energy Master Plan that includes regular
5 working-class people, hearing people who are from
6 communities, environment justice communities that
7 already bear the brunt of the energy infrastructure
8 in the form of pollution, air pollution, weird
9 smells. I'm sure you smelled them yourself when
10 you came into the neighborhood. We have the
11 Newark Energy Center, we have Newark Bay CoGen,
12 we're a stone's throw from Linden. And not to
13 mention the incinerator, which again is totally
14 false ways to energy scheme that is a waste of
15 energy, I just really have to echo that. But,
16 somehow is classified as renewable. So, it's sort
17 of like insult to injury when these kind of
18 processes, during which decisions are made about
19 our future, come around, but we're not included in
20 a real way in them.

21 So, just also to talk about a little
22 bit about what our vision looks like for the
23 process. Like my colleague Kim Gaddy mentioned, we
24 believe really in energy democracy. A process by
25 which decisions are made from the ground up, which

1 we trust that when people know what's happening
2 that they can make decisions and find solutions
3 that are best for their lives and their families'
4 lives. Also an energy system that's
5 decentralized, where people in communities like
6 this can utilize energy models to bolster
7 themselves economically, educationally, where
8 ownership can be localized. I know things like
9 that, even suggesting things like that might not
10 make you popular with PSE&G, but we know that we
11 can't continue to do things business as usual if we
12 want to see change. Not only climatically in the
13 sense of the climate and slowing down climate
14 change, but also reducing and reversing some of the
15 historical inequities that we see have been taking
16 place as these decision-making processes are
17 happening.

18 So, I really encourage you not to do
19 things business as usual. Take a step back and
20 really include the communities that are most
21 impacted by the energy infrastructure. Thank you.

22 MS. POWER: Next up, Drew Curtis. And
23 then Joseph Fave.

24 I want to take a quick minute. This
25 is just the first step in the stakeholder process.

1 And, in fact, I have encouraged you all, please
2 submit your comments, whether they're directly in
3 response to the series of questions that we have
4 put out, or that they are more general about how
5 this impacts your community or your life. I mean,
6 that's really the way that you're going to get your
7 voice heard. At any of the meetings there's only
8 a representative -- a small representative or small
9 handful of folks that are actually part of this
10 process. So, I really encourage you to send your
11 comments in, you have the next eight days or so.
12 So, thank you. Okay.

13 MR. CURTIS: Good afternoon. My name
14 is Drew Curtis. I live a couple of blocks away
15 from here. And, I work for a local community-based
16 organization, Ironbound Community Corporation. Ms.
17 Miles is my colleague.

18 First off, I'd rather be saying "good
19 evening". I wish this meeting took place later,
20 where more people from my neighborhood and
21 neighborhoods like mine could attend. I'm able to
22 come here because I work for a community-based
23 organization. But when I was telling, at the last
24 minute when I heard about this meeting a week ago,
25 my friends and neighbors about it, they were very

1 excited to come here. But, they're like, oh, four
2 p.m.? I can't make that, I'm still at work, I have
3 to pick up my kids from school, et cetera. I do
4 thank you, though, for having this meeting in
5 Newark and not just down in Trenton and Mercer
6 County. But, I wish your earlier sessions had been
7 up here, too. You had offered alternatives to the
8 other meetings that you had in Mercer County also
9 up here, in multiple parts of the state. And, I
10 wish you went to other parts of the state besides
11 Trenton, Camden, and Newark. There's a lot of
12 other communities that deserve easy access to
13 meetings and their voices to be heard; Paterson and
14 Atlantic City to name a couple. And, lastly, I
15 wish your outreach had been a little stronger, and
16 included language justice, so there are multiple
17 languages used in outreach and at this meeting.

18 This issue is too important not to
19 have a lot of meaningful and accessible community
20 engagement. Climate change and greenhouse gas
21 emissions and emissions from other co-pollutants
22 are killing our communities. Just like here in
23 Newark with our garbage incinerator, a waste of
24 energy as my colleagues have said. And then two
25 other natural gas power plants in Ironbound. We

1 need zero emissions now. And as we move towards
2 real renewable energy, like solar and wind energy
3 as well as with weatherization programs, we need to
4 make sure residents of environmental justice
5 communities gain the economic benefit of this
6 transition with community ownership, worker, and
7 locally-owned businesses, business creation, and
8 living wage jobs.

9 I'm just going to close with a quote
10 from my favorite people Jane Jacobs; cities have
11 the capability of providing something for
12 everybody, only because and only when they are
13 created by everybody. As a corollary to this, our
14 Energy Master Plan can only provide something for
15 everybody in this state and be truly great, if
16 everybody has a seat at the table in creating it,
17 and not just providing verbal and written comment
18 toward the end of the plan after it's already been
19 created.

20 So, please, I urge you all to continue
21 to have and have more meaningful community
22 engagement and bring people to the table,
23 particularly from our more marginalized
24 communities. We need this authentic community
25 engagement with social and economic inclusion of

1 all. Thank you.

2 MS. POWER: Joseph Fave.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: He's not here.

4 MS. POWER: We're just going to take
5 at ten-minute break and then we'll get back.

6 (Whereupon a short recess was held.)

7 MS. POWER: Okay. Next speaker,
8 Leonard Thomas. Followed by Bernadette Maher, and
9 then Cynthia Mellon.

10 MR. THOMAS: Good afternoon. I'm
11 Leonard Thomas. I'm here from Ironbound Super
12 Neighborhood Council. Just a few points I wanted
13 to make, because time seems sort of short right
14 now.

15 First of all, I would hope that any
16 future contact that was being made would be made
17 wider and earlier. I didn't get the message until
18 late last night. And I tried to contact some
19 people to come. And, I probably would have more to
20 say, but the fact I didn't have the time to
21 prepare. But that's a big point, because you're
22 looking at stakeholders, some of the people who are
23 most impacted by these energy decisions won't even
24 know. And it will be the same old game, a small
25 group of people be making all the decisions and not

1 have most of the people in their best interest.

2 So, I hope that in the future, outreach would be a
3 future outreach and wider outreach.

4 One point I hope that would be followed
5 is this; in any type of Energy Master Plan you have
6 to look at energy load reduction. To only focus on
7 having more than energy is to find only one
8 solution. You're going to find more ways to
9 produce energy, which is silly, because we're just
10 getting more, we waste more, we use more, we waste
11 more, we get more. We're not getting where we
12 really wanted to go, where we need to go with all
13 the issues with climate change and reduction of
14 resources. It's silly not to look at energy load
15 reduction.

16 And in that mind, I look at some of the
17 things, the possible problems that you have to deal
18 with. For example; where I live in Newark, and
19 about 75 percent of the people that live in Newark
20 are renters. So some of the energy savings that
21 come out would not even apply to them, unless a
22 landlord chooses to use them. And that said, you
23 have to incentivize landlords to take advantage of
24 some of these things that come out. It's sad in
25 other ways, too, because many of these programs

1 have come out to save energy and do things like
2 this, go so quickly, by the time you hear about
3 them you have maybe a half a day to take advantage
4 of them and you miss out. And if you find out
5 about it and you speak to your landlord and ask
6 them well, will you do this because it's an
7 advantage to you, they don't want to do it.
8 Because they don't see money come into their
9 pockets. It's not worth to them. You're paying
10 your own heat. So what. They have to spend money,
11 they don't want to spend money, because nobody
12 wants to spend money. So, something has to be done
13 to make that work. Otherwise, you don't have a
14 bulk of people wanting to save energy because it's
15 not going to help them. They're just going to be
16 spending more. Energy reduction, again, you have
17 to really get that word out there, too. And that
18 comes out through that notice, that contact with
19 the people, the stakeholders that you want to
20 reach.

21 Clean energy. Clean energy can never
22 be equated with gas. It can never be equated to
23 fossil fuel. I hear people talk about gas as clean
24 energy. There's so many things coming out of gas
25 combustible. And, if you're talking about fracked

1 fuel, whether you're talking about oil or gas, it's
2 horrible to see some of the chemicals that come out
3 of there. I guess I think about those chemicals
4 because one of the things that comes out of any
5 type of combustible fuel will be the fine
6 particulate matter air pollution, 2.5 microns. And
7 we have now connected that to so many illnesses,
8 everything from heart disease to cancer, to asthma,
9 to emphysema, to respiratory illness, as I
10 mentioned, cancer. A big thing right now in
11 autism. Autism is exploding. There should be
12 Jerry Lewis on television saying save the kids who
13 have autism, it's that bad. When I started
14 teaching, I didn't know what an autistic child was,
15 to be honest with you. And now we have schools
16 where there are whole floors of autistic classes.
17 Something has changed. Something is going wrong.
18 And yet, when we find out that it's connected to
19 this type of combustion product, this fine
20 particulate matter air pollution, it seems no one
21 is interested in doing anything about it. And,
22 that's so sad. Because autism is not something
23 where you get sick for awhile and you get better.
24 And, I didn't even think about this. You have
25 autistic adults. There are so many difficulties

1 they have in dealing with life. I don't care how
2 much their families loves them. And, yet, a lot
3 of this is keyed into our energy decisions.

4 I look at our EJ communities right now.
5 We get hit with so much crap that it doesn't make
6 sense. We are finding money for these big
7 polluting entities. We fought and lost the energy
8 center. They said you're going to have jobs, I
9 think it was eight jobs that came in. They had an
10 agreement to do certain things with the standards.
11 For the first couple of years they broke the
12 standards left and right, like 256 incidents of
13 breaking the rule. And then what they did after
14 that is we had another hearing like this, and we go
15 to testify in front of people from the state, and
16 they say don't worry about it because they're not
17 going to get excused from these standards. That
18 wasn't true. When they finished, they had less
19 infractions because they lowered the standards.
20 That makes no sense, no sense at all. So, on
21 paper it looks good because the standards have been
22 lowered.

23 So you have more pollution, save money
24 on the processing, and we get damaged more. More
25 children have asthma, emphysema, autism, heart

1 disease, respiratory illnesses, all those things.
2 And, yet, there's no compensation for that. And,
3 in fact, instead of compensation, what happens is
4 the people who live in that community actually pay
5 more for their energy because the government at the
6 time wanted to keep the energy cost down to ten
7 cents. So, we paid to keep the price of the gas
8 down to ten cents. And then we have to still pay
9 for the energy. But they say look, it's cheap.
10 Well, that's because you paid for it twice. That's
11 not really cheap. What kind of bargain is that?

12 But, there are so many things like that
13 financial burden you have. How do you find money
14 to put these energy centers into a community, and
15 can't find money for solar farm or wind, or
16 anything like that. That's a puzzle. Right now
17 one of their solutions is take the carbon dioxide
18 get this energy center, and put it into ocean.
19 Their going to make the ocean water into soda.
20 We've had fish kills in the last couple of years.
21 Maybe no one remembers those. But you take the
22 oxygen out of the water, fish die. You put the
23 carbon dioxide in water, you're taking oxygen out,
24 fish die. And then we're going to be hungry, and
25 then the people -- why don't we have so many fish?

1 What happened to them?

2 We're not thinking ahead. We're not
3 making those connections. The placement of these
4 new energy plants have to be started in EJ
5 communities because they have been the communities
6 where they had these newer fossil fuel plants.
7 Now, according to the pecking order, these fossil
8 fuel plants would not be scheduled to removed or
9 changed because they were the last ones in. But
10 these are the ones that should fixed first, because
11 these are the neighborhoods that have been the most
12 damaged by this. People are paying more
13 financially for their energy, they're getting less
14 out of it, and the benefits go to somebody else,
15 but they still pay. They pay in money, they pay
16 in health, they pay in life. It's not right.

17 The last part, I just hope that you
18 will have more people involved. There are so many
19 solutions to this that are possible. A lot is
20 just matter of will and finances. We find the
21 finances through the fossil fuels, why can't we
22 find the finances through the other alternative
23 methods? Why? It makes no sense. It's a
24 question that needs to be answered.

25 So, I hope that in your planning you

1 take these suggestions -- I heard several
2 suggestions, wind to water to solar. There are a
3 lot of them out there. In other countries they do
4 it. Countries we feel that are not doing as well
5 as we are, they're doing great with this. Plus,
6 they have a smaller load on their energy, which we
7 should be thinking about, and we're not doing that
8 right now. We have to. It has to be part of that
9 plan, otherwise the plan will fail.

10 So, I hope that you'll be considering
11 these. And, I hope that with the future hearings
12 that we will have better outreach so that more
13 people -- so, you can really get a feeling of what
14 people want and what they need. There are a lot
15 of suggestions out there. There are things that
16 will make this work, but we have to do the work to
17 get it together. And, I hope we will. Thank you
18 for your time.

19 MS. POWER: Bernadette Maher.

20 MS. MAHER: Good afternoon. My name is
21 Bernadette Maher. I'm a volunteer with the
22 Franklin Township task force against compressor
23 station 206 and the northeast supply enhancement
24 project.

25 And, what I would like to see -- one of

1 the items I'd like to see in the upcoming energy
2 plan, is that you take all these fossil fuel and
3 infrastructure projects into account overall, and
4 not project by project. There's a Meadowlands
5 project, there's a Roseland project, there's
6 Chesterfield project, there's our project in
7 Franklin Township. And, I think it would be
8 important to overall look at these projects as a
9 whole, versus piecemeal, because I think that would
10 make a big difference. We're becoming the pipeline
11 state.

12 We're such a densely populated state,
13 that I think we really have to look at the safety
14 issues of all these gas pipelines running through
15 our state. And, some of the Williams TransCo is
16 the company that's doing the northeast supply
17 enhancement project. And, some of the reasons that
18 our township and South Brunswick Township opposes
19 the project are listed below, and I'll just read
20 them off to you. Adding natural gas facilities
21 and pipelines does not support the missions of New
22 Jersey and New York to decrease reliance on fossil
23 fuels, and the transition to renewable energy
24 sources while also increasing energy efficiency.
25 Expansion of this infrastructure will also

1 exacerbate the impact of intense future weather
2 events on New Jersey. We already know Hurricane
3 Sandy, we have floods, hurricanes, heat waves,
4 infectious diseases, mental health issues, and many
5 more.

6 The site for the compressor station
7 where we are located has a high water table, and
8 run off of pollutants is a major concern. In the
9 state's water supply plan the Trap Rock Quarry is
10 considered a potential reservoir site after they
11 stop mining in 2040. There is concern that the
12 continued emission of toxins over time will pollute
13 this water resource. And water is more and more
14 becoming a commodity that's in short ply. At Trap
15 Rock Quarry, mining and processing activities
16 include blasting with dynamite.

17 There are no reported studies or plan
18 from Williams TransCo about the impact of tremors
19 on the stability of the compressor over time for
20 many decades. The concerns are that the ongoing
21 blasting could destabilize the gas powered
22 compressors and turbine units and cause a fire or
23 explosion, with resulting added emissions of
24 toxins. Many of the residents who live down near
25 the quarry and in South Brunswick who live across

1 from where the quarry is, their homes shake when
2 they do the dynamite blasting. I mean, they are
3 notified like there's going to be blasting today.
4 But, that's one of the major concerns.

5 Williams also has a long history of
6 safety violations that have led to fires and
7 explosions and leaks, with loss of lives,
8 illnesses, injuries, and damaged land and
9 buildings. There is a potential danger from
10 increased capacity and velocity of gas to the aging
11 Class I and Class II pipelines in densely populated
12 residential neighborhoods, with many elementary
13 schools, daycares, and places of worship and adult
14 communities nearby. The pipeline includes some
15 segments that are over fifty years old, and
16 corrosion or cracks then can lead to gas escapes,
17 adding increased gas along these lines may add
18 stress. And this combination has led to dangerous
19 explosions and fires elsewhere.

20 I think we all seen what's happened
21 just recently in Massachusetts. Gas powered
22 compressors emit many airborne toxins as part of
23 routine operations. And these include known
24 carcinogens, as well as respiratory irritants.
25 Particulate emissions are mostly at the point where

1 natural gas is burned at the compressor unit.
2 Particulate matter can get deep into the lung and
3 carries other toxic chemicals. Modeling has shown
4 that it can travel 2.5 to six miles away. Studies
5 have shown that the levels per PM2's are not
6 protective of human health.

7 Also, there is a New Jersey Buddhist
8 Vihara which would share a property boundary with
9 the compressor station. Walking meditation is a
10 common practice, and there are frequent outdoor
11 religious observances, as well as the weekend
12 dhamma school where children engage in activities
13 outdoors. Noise, toxic emissions, and the fear of
14 risk of an explosion or fire would interfere with
15 the rights of the monks and the congregants to
16 practice their religion. The New Jersey Buddhist
17 Vihara serves as both a place of worship and a
18 cultural center for those of Sri Lankan heritage
19 and the community at large. Their Samadhi
20 Buddhist statue is the largest and tallest in the
21 western hemisphere, and it was designated as a
22 cultural landmark by Franklin Township. As it is,
23 as a result of the blasting, some of the foundation
24 there has already cracked; so, we're not quite sure
25 what's going to happen when there's additional

1 vibration from the compressor station.

2 Construction and operations would
3 interfere with communications, breeding, food
4 sources, and navigation of wildlife. The pipeline
5 would also then go over to Raritan Bay under the
6 Raritan Bay over to the Rockaways, and then the
7 pipeline would turn and go to Brooklyn.
8 Construction in the Raritan Bay would resuspend and
9 spread toxic contaminants that would adversely
10 impact habitat and marine mammals. The feeding
11 habitats and nesting grounds of birds on the state
12 and federal endangered and threatened species list
13 by the Raritan Bay would be affected by
14 construction, noise, and pollution. There would
15 be negative impacts on recreational boating,
16 fishing, and commercial fishing to communities
17 along the Raritan Bay, that include but are not
18 limited to a potential to cripple business
19 dependent on seasonal visitor access to the bay.

20 Also, greenhouse gas from the NSSI
21 project would contribute to more significant health
22 problems, ozone, and damaging weather
23 climate-related events that harm and cost all of us
24 here in New Jersey.

25 So, I think as part of the overall

1 Master Plan, taking all these projects into
2 consideration as an aggregate would be helpful.
3 Again, we want to try and have a Master Plan that
4 gives us a rapid transition to renewable energies.
5 And, clean energy should be our goal. And some of
6 these fossil fuel projects are not clean energy.
7 We should reject these market-based schemes where
8 you can buy credits from one place and give it to
9 another. These effect, I guess,
10 disproportionately I believe environmental justice
11 communities. And most important, these projects,
12 the plan, should address environmental justice
13 issues. I think that's very important here in the
14 State of New Jersey. Thanks very much.

15 MS. POWER: Cynthia Mellon. Emily
16 Turonis.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: She left.

18 MS. POWER: Subquidah Carter.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: She left.

20 MS. POWER: And then Alexa Sanchez.

21 Christopher Latonnel. Jeanett Mitchell.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Here I am.

23 MS. POWER: Okay. You'll be next.

24 MS. MELLON: Hi. Good evening. My
25 name is Cynthia Mellon. And, I am the policy

1 coordinator for the National Climate Justice
2 Alliance, which links 68 organizations across the
3 country, also which are based in low-income
4 environmental justice communities. Ironbound
5 Community Corporation, ICC -- I'm also co-chair of
6 the City of Newark Environmental Commission. A
7 member of the Board of New Jersey Environmental
8 Justice Alliance. And, the chair of the
9 Environmental Justice Committee of the Latino
10 Action Network of New Jersey.

11 Working with the membership of the
12 Climate Justice Alliance, we've developed an energy
13 democracy platform that has ten principals of
14 energy democracy, which include the human right to
15 a clean and healthy environment rooted in a
16 commitment to a just transition for workers and
17 communities who will experience displacement as we
18 move into a clean energy future.

19 We call for an end of fossil fuel use
20 by 2035. We believe this is possible. We want to
21 see community solar, owned and coordinated and
22 governed by the communities, as other people here
23 have spoken about. And, this means community-based
24 planning and assessment, and the type of inclusive
25 action that others have talked about this

1 afternoon. And, we favor a smaller more local
2 solar grid. It can be close to communities so that
3 they can actually reap the benefit of those jobs.
4 And, it's smaller equipment they will be able to
5 achieve the same thing.

6 We define clean energy as solar, wind,
7 and small hydro projects. And we completely reject
8 nuclear, waste incineration, and biomass. These
9 are not clean energy, and should not be included in
10 that category. We reject market-based programs
11 such as carbon trading and cap and trade. These
12 are false solutions. And we reject all of the more
13 recently proposed geo-engineering schemes, which
14 also includes carbon capture and storage. These
15 are false solutions that some are promoting in
16 order to profit from the current climate crisis.
17 We saw this heavily promoted at Governor Jerry
18 Brown's climate action summit a couple of weeks
19 ago.

20 Finally, we want to see an end to
21 siting dirty energy facilities in already
22 overburdened communities, like those that we have
23 been speaking of tonight, and the environmental
24 justice communities like Newark. We need
25 mitigation for the facilities that are already

1 here. And, I just want to say that here in Newark
2 as a city of concern, a community of concern,
3 working very closely with the previous EDA and the
4 one we have now to put an end to vehicle idling,
5 and other types of things that creating more
6 problems around pollution here. So, I'll end with
7 that. Thank you.

8 MS. MITCHELL: Hi everyone. My name
9 is Jeanett Mitchell. I am a climate organizer with
10 Clean Water Action. You heard from my colleague,
11 Kim Gaddy, earlier. And of course everyone here is
12 really our colleagues because we all work together.

13 My organization is funded a hundred
14 percent grass roots. And, a lot of the work we do
15 is in the State of New Jersey, but we also do a lot
16 of work in Newark, New Jersey, as well.
17 Particularly I do a lot of work in the south ward,
18 which is directly linked to the Ironbound, so we
19 share a lot of the same issues.

20 Governor Murphy's commitment to a
21 hundred percent clean energy economy by 2050 is
22 visionary. Achieving the goal it will take key
23 interim benchmark to restore New Jersey as a
24 national leader, not just in terms of addressing
25 the climate crisis, but also advancing public

1 health, protecting private property, growing the
2 economy, and creating the jobs. Hurricane Sandy
3 was catastrophic in many ways. I was in my bed
4 very cold for a lot of time. But I know that there
5 were a lot of residents who faced a lot of
6 flooding. And when there is flooding in certain
7 types of areas that have a lot of pollution and
8 truck activity, of course the water is mixed in
9 with a lot of elements that you would never want
10 anyone to drink much less touch your skin. This
11 also resulted in a loss of power, and residents in
12 both, of course, the Ironbound and south ward were
13 exposed to many toxins from chemicals in sewerage
14 plants overwhelmed by surge water that ended up in
15 our neighborhoods and our communities.

16 One of the areas that I work in is in
17 the Dayton Street neighborhood. That area alone
18 has about eleven public housing high-rises, as well
19 as town homes. And those high-rises are home to
20 senior citizens and people with disabilities. A
21 lot of them during that time were trapped on their
22 particular floors, and were not able to come down.
23 One of the things that we talk about a lot when we
24 talk about community work is at each one/teach one,
25 which is pretty much your neighbor being your

1 keeper. And we call that a buddy system. That is
2 something that we are looking to constantly create
3 when we talk with tenant associations, as well as
4 community groups. But it is also something that
5 needs to happen, I would think, on a national
6 level, as well. And definitely on a city level so
7 that residents can have more diversity in terms of
8 emergency contact and not just the usual 9-1-1.

9 If we are able to create a more
10 sustainable energy infrastructure, we need to plan
11 for the extremely hazardous situations mentioned
12 earlier. And, here are seven to start with. One;
13 getting power back quickly in all neighborhoods
14 regardless of color, income, geography, precedence,
15 or restore power in some cases much longer than in
16 the Jersey shore. Having independent microgrids
17 that allow complex institutions and neighborhoods
18 to stay on line with power, regardless of the
19 largest system being damaged. Three; getting back
20 on line faster with the emergency power systems
21 prioritizing the most vulnerable people, the
22 elderly, sick, and disabled. Definitely in some
23 cases there needs to be a lot of work with the
24 Housing Authority, as well, too, to be able to
25 address some of these concerns in times of

1 disaster. Which is when we really think about
2 energy and resources when something bad happens,
3 and not necessarily when we go in and can turn on
4 the lights. Number five; having
5 neighbor-to-neighbor check-in systems, which is our
6 buddy system. Ensuring that we have the ability
7 to take renewable energy systems off the grid, and
8 put them to on-site use and back up when larger
9 systems shut down. Number six; taking steps to
10 minimize use of gas and diesel power generators,
11 which are unsafe, contribute greenhouse gases and
12 other co-pollutants, as well as are being difficult
13 to access during power outages when our pumping
14 stations do not work. And, number seven, of
15 course, emphasizing a more decentralized renewable
16 energy, and reduce demand. Energy efficiency
17 demand response and conservation are policies, not
18 building more fossil fuel infrastructure. And, of
19 course, finally, you know, we are happy that these
20 two new hearings are happening. We wish more
21 residents can come. And, we know that, as you said
22 earlier, that this is just initial conversations
23 and hearings and that there are more to look
24 forward to working with you guys. In the future
25 you can definitely call on us, I or Mr. Pringle who

1 works with us here, as well. Thank you.

2 MS. POWER: We have Heather McFalls
3 and Olga Morales. Is there anyone else who wishes
4 to speak who didn't sign up?

5 MS. McFALLS: Hi. My name is Heather
6 McFalls. I'm with the New Habor. I live in Newark
7 for about eight years.

8 One of the things that this is very
9 important to me as a half-blood native American
10 because sustainable energy can help protect a
11 little bit of the earth we still have left. A lot
12 of things that are going on now with the pipelines
13 and the power plant, which is very important to not
14 let go through because it's just going to make the
15 problem much worse, and we want to switch to
16 sustainable and a hundred percent energy, that's
17 just going to make the process even more
18 complicated because having more pollution, which we
19 don't need at all. One of the things I wanted to
20 say is that it will help create jobs, as well as
21 create a job market where, you know, we will be
22 able to give more jobs to local people, as well as
23 people from, you know, that have studied and have a
24 new job working with green energy jobs. I'm
25 sorry.

1 We'll leave a lighter carbon footprint
2 on the earth now, which is more important because
3 if you think about it he is projecting 'til 2050.
4 And I very agree with everyone else that it needs
5 to be earlier than 2050. 2035 would be the best
6 projection, because the way that we are now with
7 the pollution that we have now, it's getting worse.
8 And we're not going to have that time later. If we
9 put this off to a later time, we're not going to
10 have that time. And, it's going to be too late to
11 do this because the pollution and the damage is
12 going to be done already. And, without our earth
13 mother, which to me is very important, we wouldn't
14 be able to live. Her oxygen is what helps us
15 breathe, what helps us have lives. So, not just
16 the animals and plants will be dying, but so will
17 we. If it is harmful to her and if it's harmful
18 to the environment, then it's harmful to us, as
19 well. Because it's going to cause a lot more
20 problems not just with her, but problems for us, as
21 well.

22 And, I know that as a native American
23 I feel that this is what the great spirit and our
24 creator father side would have wanted. Because we
25 were put here on this earth to take care of her.

1 And we've done it for awhile but now with the
2 natural gas and the pipelines we are creating more
3 pollution than we can actually contain it and clean
4 up after ourselves. Which is very important,
5 because in other countries, as someone else has
6 said, there is sustainable energy, there's wind
7 energy, there's water and powered energy, and it's
8 doing very well for them. And, we look at them as
9 third-world countries, but I feel that they're
10 doing much better off than we are, especially in
11 the energy department.

12 In closing, I definitely want to say
13 that there is a parable that rings true to this.
14 And one of our ancestors has said only when the
15 last tree has died, when the last river has been
16 poisoned, and the last fish has been caught, we
17 will realize we cannot eat our money. Money comes
18 and goes, but our earth where we live where we have
19 to survive, that is what really needs to be
20 protected. Not the money in our pockets, but the
21 environment, the trees and the grass which we need
22 to live. The oxygen, the water. Because we are
23 polluting our water supplies, and that is
24 definitely something we need live off of. And the
25 oxygen that we need to breathe. If we draw out

1 all this carbon dioxide and we have not oxygen to
2 take in, we're going to die, as well as the planet.
3 Thank you.

4 MS. POWER: Olga Morales.

5 (Through an interpreter)

6 MS. MORALES: Only Spanish. Good
7 evening. (In Spanish)

8 MS. SURREY: So, you are New Labor.
9 It's a non-profit organization called New Labor.
10 More than 3,500 members. They represent immigrant
11 workers. They believe that it's worth
12 participating in this. It's a very ambitious
13 project. It sets New Jersey for a better future.
14 But, the way that the project is presented it only
15 seems like the money is the important part of it.
16 It doesn't seem like it protects the environment.
17 So, she believes that they're using the -- they're
18 using wind, but they're not really making.

19 I don't understand. I can't
20 understand. I'm sorry.

21 MS. McFALL: (As Interpreter) We
22 believe that -- she says that we are not giving
23 back to the environment what we are taking from
24 her.

25 She says that in the project we should

1 have a place where we grow trees so that they can
2 process the carbon dioxide and give us back
3 something.

4 She says that they're only thinking
5 about the money to have the green energy for the
6 people who already have money in their pockets and
7 they are not paying for the energy to produce their
8 business.

9 The people that are producing and have
10 money and that have power, they are the ones that
11 are winning at this.

12 Basically, the government is just
13 putting in their money and their time and their
14 effort for the people who have money, and for them
15 so that they can do and produce their business
16 without paying for it energy-wise.

17 But where is the community benefiting?
18 You don't see the investment in the community or
19 the people that are benefiting from the community
20 from this.

21 The project should also have
22 components to where they are using the garbage to
23 reduce, reuse, and recycle, so the community can
24 benefit from it. Having a job. Educational.
25 Forming green-wise, energy-wise, knowing about the

1 environment. And at the same time receiving
2 incentives that better their quality of life.
3 Because you don't see this in the project. They
4 only talk about implementing wind energy.
5 Minimizing the impact by changing the
6 transportation from buses to electric buses. But
7 the environment involves many things. And where
8 the community is a very important part.

9 The small part the community will
10 receive with this change. The change, the minimal
11 change that would come is that in their, when they
12 pay their electric bill there would be a small
13 reduction in the price that they pay. That would
14 be the only thing.

15 What does the big companies receive?
16 They sell their buses to other countries that are
17 not as forward in the energy as we are. Take a
18 new technology of buses, they get rich, pay less.
19 And the government, the only thing that they did
20 was take all their resources and put it into this.
21 That they are from the taxes, even the ones that
22 poor people pay. Only to benefit for the big
23 companies. The factories, for example, what are
24 they giving? They don't give nothing. They treat
25 bad their employees. There's no security and

1 health and safety for them. They don't pay them
2 very well, and to produce their product. And to
3 produce their project in the future would cost much
4 less. But they will sell it for more. And, so,
5 where did the community win from that?

6 It's important that we reflect on how
7 a project that's very good and very promising, and
8 really for the environment, where it should benefit
9 the community -- for the environment, but starting
10 with the community. Where will the big companies
11 be investing that money, and what they got from it
12 into the community or into the future? They
13 shouldn't pay less for their energy. They should
14 pay the same amount, so that that money is invested
15 in the future and in the community. Investing in
16 New Jersey.

17 In the project there's different
18 components that are missing. Components that are
19 missing that would make this a very promising and
20 future project. The investment that the
21 government will put into it is so big. That really
22 is important. And, it is something that will be
23 shown in the future. Not only used for the
24 companies that are big.

25 She says she doesn't want to say

1 anymore, but thank you very much.

2 MS. POWER: Last call for speakers.
3 Anybody? Well, thank you so much for coming
4 tonight. Again, please, we welcome you to submit
5 comments via e-mail. And, we hope to see you at
6 our next meeting next week in Camden. Thank you.

7 (Whereupon the proceedings were
8 concluded at 7:00 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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3 I, CHRISTINA RESTUCCIA, a Court Reporter
4 of the State of New Jersey, authorized to
5 administer oaths pursuant to R.S.41:2-2, do hereby
6 CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and accurate
7 transcript of the testimony that was taken
8 stenographically by and before me at the time,
9 place and on the date herein before set forth.

10 I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither a
11 relative nor employee nor attorney nor counsel of
12 any of the parties to this action, and that I am
13 not financially interested in the action.

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Notary Public of the State of New Jersey
My Commission expires November 14, 2021
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