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## COMMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE INDEPENDENT ENERGY PRODUCERS OF NEW JERSEY ON THE ENERGY MASTER PLAN (EMP)

## EMP Stakeholder Meeting Building a Modern Grid September 24, 2018

My name is Ashley-Lynn Chrzaszcz, Associate of Gabel Associates. I am here today to testify on behalf of the Independent Energy Producers of New Jersey – referred to as IEPNJ.

We appreciate the opportunity to present our views.

IEPNJ is a not-for-profit trade association that represents New Jersey's generators of electric power. IEPNJ members own or operate approximately 70% of the electricity generation capacity in the State. Members include companies that sell electricity into the wholesale market for sale to the state's utilities, which, in turn, sell that power to New Jersey homes and businesses.

As such, members of IEPNJ are active participants in the region's wholesale power market and have a continuing interest in assuring that there are adequate supplies of electricity to fuel the region's growth in an environmentally and economically sound manner.

IEPNJ and its members have been on the forefront of the dramatic changes that continue to transform the power business. Since 1992, IEPNJ has been directly involved in shaping the laws and policies that affect New Jersey's power industry and has been an active contributor to the State's Energy Master Planning process over the years.

We support New Jersey's direction to create a cleaner, more environmentally advanced energy industry throughout the consumption, transportation, and production chain. The power generation industry is a vital component of this chain and generators are committed to continuous improvements in the efficiency, reliability, and environmental performance of its plants. In this regard, the one factor we wish to emphasize is that the most efficient way for New Jersey to achieve its goals is to rely on competitive markets and let them work. Competition forces market participants to respond to competitive pressure by improving efficiency which in turn reduces costs and improves environmental quality. New Jersey's generation fleet has evolved and improved significantly over the years through this process. New Jersey's power generators are currently one of the cleanest fleets in the United States.

We recommend that you continue your work in fostering the competitive energy marketplace. The Energy Master Plan should clearly indicate that it will continue to rely on a competitive market design to achieve New Jersey's goals.

IEPNJ looks forward to continuing to work with New Jersey to promote policies that encourage the development of generation resources needed to meet New Jersey's demand for power. In addition, we are always available to serve as a resource of information as you think through important issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.