Dear Governor Murphy and EMP Committee:

Thank you for preparing this plan and soliciting commentary about it from New Jersey residents. My comments follow.

While there are many positives to your plan, its timeline for implementation is simply inadequate. We do not have the luxury of waiting until year 2050 to kick our dependency on fossil fuels. I believe the continued use of fossil fuels as a source of energy for New Jersey must end by 2030: This is 20 years sooner than your objective. Please consider:

While I’m sure you are under a lot of pressure from the fossil fuel industry, it is not your job to ensure the industry’s financial success. Nor is it your job to ensure the nuclear industry’s financial success. Your job is to protect the health and welfare and safety of the citizens of New Jersey. Your job is also to protect the unique and precious ecosystems of New Jersey, in particular our fresh and salt water resources and our national treasure, the New Jersey Pine Barrens.

The fossil fuel and nuclear industries have been quite successful in maximizing their profits. They don’t need any additional help from you.

With the advent of fracking several years ago, these industries have been incredibly successful. They are now awash in cheap and plentiful supplies of liquid natural gas. In fact, these industries have so much LNG on hand, they are anxious to find additional markets outside of the United States. For these
industries, their bottom line is paramount and the last thing they care about is the health, welfare and safety of New Jersey’s citizens. It is your job to care.

Because our beloved state is bordered by the Delaware River and the Atlantic Ocean, it is uniquely positioned to provide port access for the purpose of shipping natural gas overseas. I know that you will be under incredible pressure from these industries to provide our coastlines as convenient drop off points to ship LNG overseas.

Liquid natural gas is a dirty and dangerous fuel. New Jersey should never be used for the following purposes:

- Transportation of LNG across our state, by pipeline, rail or trucks
- Storage, treatment or disposal of waste from fracking operations
- Taking water from the Delaware River basin in order to assist with fracking operations in other states, principally Pennsylvania.
- Creation of new fossil fuel projects or the expansion of existing fossil fuel projects, specifically LNG pipelines and compressor station projects.

New Jersey is very fortunate to have minimal deposits of shale. For that reason, the fossil fuel industry has no interest in drilling for natural gas here. But this is not the case in our neighboring state, Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania has turned a blind eye to the health, welfare and safety of its citizens. Fracking is a huge industry there, as is pipeline construction. Please do not allow New Jersey be complicit in the crimes Pennsylvania is committing against its unfortunate citizens.

I want to commend you, Governor Murphy, for last year signing an executive order directing BPU to implement the Offshore Wind Economic Development Act. I very much look forward to progress of the Danish firm Orsted in construction of wind turbines three miles off of Atlantic City. This project will bring permanent and high skilled jobs to our state. What we need are more projects like this. In fact, the fossil fuel industry realizes that offshore wind is where its future should lie; Shell Energies’ Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind submitted a proposal to do this work.

Yes, an incredible amount of work needs to be done by you, Governor Murphy, by your Energy Master Plan Committee and by the citizens of our fine State. We
must all work together to avoid the catastrophe which awaits us if we do not solve New Jersey’s desperate need for clean energy. We cannot wait until 2050 to achieve this goal: 2050 is 20 years too late!

Respectfully submitted,

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