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To: [comments_EMP](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fossil Fuel Moratorium Needed - Energy Master Plan Comments
Date: Friday, September 13, 2019 1:39:00 PM

Energy Master Plan Hearing – Trenton, July 17, 2019 (and Sept 12)

Good afternoon! My name is Carol Gay, and I am President of the NJ State Industrial Union Council, a statewide labor federation representing tens of thousands of union members and their families. We are part of Empower NJ, and we find this draft EMP woefully deficient, and its goals totally inadequate to meet the climate crisis confronting us. While the plan says bold action is needed, there is NO evidence in the plan that necessary action will be taken soon enough. One severe deficiency is the lack of a call for a moratorium on the 15 fossil fuel projects underway in NJ currently. These projects are unneeded, dangerous, and are not even for the benefit of NJ residents.

Why are these projects being rushed through at the peril of the health and safety of NJ residents?

**Gov. Murphy's stated goals will never be reached without a moratorium .
These projects must be halted now!**

I cannot comprehend how the people who worked on this draft EMP have totally failed to grasp the urgency of the climate emergency we face.

Gov . Murphy has repeatedly asked us to be patient while this plan was being worked on, implying that a real solution was being drafted. So we have lost another valuable year and that means we have only 10 years left to reverse the effects of the devastating climate change currently underway. Do you not understand the consequences of the failure to act immediately? The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the latest US National Climate Assessment call for rapid and immediate reductions in Green House Gases. This means our clean energy goal must be 100% renewable energy for electricity by 2035. The goal of carbon neutral energy is completely

inadequate.

Market based schemes like carbon offsets and pollution credits are not only ineffective, but these pollution trading schemes disproportionately impact low income communities and communities of color. They also block progress toward the 100% renewable energy economy we need. It will further delay investment in wind power, solar, and energy efficiency, and at the same time, keep us from reaching the necessary goals by suppressing the development of green energy and green jobs.

And speaking of investment ,we now know that renewable energy is a far better investment than fossil fuels. The smart thing to do is divest from fossil fuels because they are risky, and continued investment in fossil fuels is financially irresponsible. The EMP should call for the State Pension Fund to divest and reinvest in clean energy funds. This could be a win/win , a win for the environment and our health, as well as making more money for the pension fund (thereby helping to shore up the public sector pension fund and regain much needed revenue).

One of the missing ingredients in this faulty EMP is labor input. What we mean by this is a realistic plan to create tens of thousands of new clean energy jobs, green jobs with good pay and workers having the right to organize. We already know that renewable energy creates more jobs than fossil fuel jobs. There are more than twice as many jobs in energy efficiency, solar and wind in NJ already than in fossil fuel jobs, according to Dept of Energy data. Oil and gas jobs are dangerous, unstable, and unsustainable. Renewable energy and energy efficiency jobs tend to be labor intensive and community based, jobs that can't be shipped overseas. And in addition, dollars saved from energy efficiency tend to be spent locally, creating further stable jobs.

NJ needs a strong green jobs program for our climate and for our economy, and

this plan is silent on any incentives for a strong green energy program.

Some examples of other studies and reports demonstrating the jobs benefits from green energy are: (Attachment)

The Stanford based The SolutionsProject.org study...

A Study by Synapse Energy Economics, sponsored by Labor Network for Sustainability, with which we are affiliated, shows...

A recent report by ACEEE (American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy) ...

(Summaries of these projects were presented at the Camden hearing on September 12. I provided a copy to transcriber.)

We recommend that the Administration create a strong green jobs program including training and placement in the new green economy with just transition for displaced fossil fuel workers. Our climate cannot wait and neither can New Jersey's economy.

Not only is there a loss of growth opportunity associated with delayed action to rapidly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, there will be direct negative economic impacts from the resulting climate disruptions.

In addition, I would like to say... we need more trains! The draft plan addresses electrification infrastructure and electrification of mass transit, but more trains are necessary to cut down on greenhouse gas emissions. Besides the train from Glassboro to Camden, we need a train from the Jersey Shore to Trenton. I don't think I have to tell you there are far too many cars on our Jersey roads. One important way to cut pollution is to provide more mass transit including more trains.

And one last thing – plant trees, not pipelines!!!!

Thank you.

Carol Gay

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