Thank you for reading this email. Much of these talking points were taken from a document that contained the pitfalls of the drafted EMP. It is very disturbing that there are so many points that are not being considered or at s minimum, glossed over as incidentals.

The EMP’s goals are clearly inadequate to address the immediate emergency we are facing and must be strengthened in the final master plan along the following lines and accompany these changed policies with aggressive implementation:

1. “The goal of 100% carbon neutral energy by 2050 must be replaced with the goal of achieving 100% clean renewable energy by 2050

2. The EMP must include a moratorium on all new fossil fuel projects until GHG’s are effectively regulated. Even the State’s existing goals for reducing GHGs cannot possibly be met if New Jersey permits any of the dozen or so proposed fossil fuel projects.

3. The goal of 100% carbon neutral energy by 2050 must be replaced with the goal of achieving 100% clean renewable energy by 2050.

4. GHG’s must be regulated to achieve IPCC’s 2030 target and GWRA’s 2050 mandate. These pollutants are literally destroying the planet, and the authority to regulate them in NJ currently exists. The EMP only tepidly proposes to “study” this issue.

There is nothing more to study here!

5. Total short and long term economic, social, health and total life cycle costs of burning fossil fuels must be calculated, disclosed and utilized by the EMP in setting policies. The draft document is silent on these costs.

6. The State must regulate black carbon, pure carbon particulates, aka soot. This by-product of burning fossil fuels is a major contributor to climate change (orders of magnitude more potent as a climate pollutant than CO2) and an ongoing threat to our respiratory health. It particularly affects our most vulnerable communities AND CHILDREN WHO ARE LIVING IN THOSE COMMUNITIES!

7. The EMP drastically understates the global warming impact of methane released by the extraction, distribution and burning of natural gas. Over a 20-year period, methane is 86 TIMES more potent than CO2 as a GHG. Yet the EMP (a plan for policies over the next 30 years) only considers the impact of methane over a 100-year horizon. This drastically obscures its real effect on climate change in the near term by a factor of at least two-thirds...

8. Labor’s buy-in is essential, practically and politically, to meet the EMP’s goals. This means including a realistic plan to ensure that the tens of thousands of new jobs in the green economy will be high quality jobs with workers having the right to organize. The EMP is completely silent on this issue.
9. The EMP admittedly lacks detailed plans and adequate public input to accomplish its goals. It largely lacks any interim goals and milestones when there should be annual milestones for every goal in the report. While more details are expected in the final plan, this process prevents the public from having meaningful input and allows special interests to have undue influence. There must be a substantial opportunity for the public to have input on these details, especially the modeling results from the Integrated Energy Plan, in time to influence the final plan.

Many of the deficiencies in the EMP can be traced back to an apparent unwillingness to offend the natural gas industrial complex. Relying on natural gas is a bargain with the devil - short term electric bill cost savings at the expense of much greater external costs and long-term survival. The coddling of natural gas must end to protect our children and grandchildren. The EMP must speak truth to power, stand up for New Jersey families and provide for the quickest possible path to eliminating natural gas usage, which is not a bridge to clean energy, but a highway to climate catastrophe.

10. It had been has repeatedly promised that guidance and rules for constructing new gas power plants and pipelines/compressor stations would be addressed in the EMP and has used this to deflect criticism and defer action. The EMP completely ignores this subject and is effectively allowing these projects to proceed. With each passing day it becomes increasingly difficult to achieve the Administration’s stated goals. The time to fulfill these promises is NOW.”

Please, let’s make NJ a state within our union, that will move on plans that show strength, savviness and a “moxiness” in bring environmentally progressive. Given that we in New Jersey suffer from one of the highest taxed states in the country, please listen to the majority of your constituents who want a more inclusive plan and maybe DESERVE a more inclusive plan.

I am and will always be a Democrat. But a prouder one would be even better...

Thank you.
Cathy Hayes
Red Bank, NJ