Hello,

I spoke at the August 8th Governor Murphy meeting. We need a moratorium on all fossil fuel projects in the Energy Master Plan. Please review the steps to a cleaner environment below which should be featured in the Plan.

• Establish rules pursuant to the Clean Air Act (Title V), the GWRA and the NJ Air Pollution Control Act that place limits on GHGs, require applicants for all new energy projects to conduct a comprehensive alternatives analysis of renewable energy technologies to meet the proposed project needs, and enable the DEP to reject permits for projects that would cause New Jersey to exceed GHG and other pollution limits, and to select the least polluting project an alternative to move forward.

• Reverse NJ and DEP policy that allows polluters to purchase ground-level ozone credits, which today allows virtually unlimited production of ozone precursors even in areas of the State that exceeds ozone attainment levels and is already rated as 'F' by the American Lung Association.

• Update the DEP rules regarding air deposition of pollutants in order to allow rejection of permits that would increase water pollution beyond specific limits.

• Remove the cost cap on renewable energy projects, which does not exist on other energy sources.

• Reverse Governor Christie's rollbacks of regulations on flood hazard rules, water quality management planning rules, the Coastal Area Facility Review Act, Wetlands and Storm Water Management rules that make it easier to build pipelines and other developments in the Highlands and Pinelands, near water resources and other sensitive environmental areas.

• The State's permit and regulatory processes must require both short and long term economic, social, health and total life cycle costs of burning fossil fuels be calculated, disclosed and utilized. It is, as the EMP recognizes, appropriate to be "sensitive" to increases in short term costs. But that is only part of the equation. Short term costs must be balanced against the far greater societal, environmental and economic costs of using fossil fuels. The EMP is largely silent about those costs and the final plan should include a robust means of calculating them

Best, Hailey Benson

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