



November 15, 2019

TO: Energy Master Plan Committee
Chair, Grace Strom Power
44 S Clinton Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08625

FROM: Ed Potosnak, Executive Director
New Jersey League of Conservation Voters
707 State Road
Princeton, NJ 08540

RE: New Jersey LCV Integrated Energy Plan (IEP) Comments

The **New Jersey League of Conservation Voters** would like to thank the EMP Committee for inviting us to join the October 16th Stakeholder session, to learn about the extensive modelling conducted and offer feedback on the initial results. We are proud to have worked extensively with the administration and legislature on the Clean Renewable Energy Bill, and were honored to stand with BPU President Fiordaliso as the Energy Master Plan (EMP) Executive Order was signed by Governor Murphy.

Overall, we believe the IEP is a strong complement to the draft EMP, which puts more detail to informing how New Jersey is to achieve Governor Murphy's strong vision for a clean energy and decarbonized economy that could catalyze continued growth in clean energy jobs that already employ over 52,000 people. This analysis shows us that we can dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions while ensuring that the lights stay on, even in extreme weather, while continuing the historical decline in electricity costs as a share of GDP.

These initial results are promising – in fact, environmental stakeholders and advocates should be encouraged. The electric grid will remain reliable with high levels of renewables, if we select the right mix of renewables and other clean, flexible resources. The electric grid will remain reliable even as natural gas generation declines, with plenty of reserve capacity to meet extreme weather conditions. We can decarbonize the state and still have falling energy costs. Even with conservative projections of clean energy costs, the cost of achieving this reduction in emissions by 2050 will only be marginally higher than in a future with no climate policies and continued high levels of greenhouse gas emissions. Today, we spend more than 4% of GDP on the energy system, and will spend less each year as we transition to clean energy, to below 3% of GDP by 2050. Over the past 25 years, we have spent between 5 and 9% of GDP on energy, largely due to volatile fuel prices. Moving to clean energy will increase costs by 0.3% of GDP in



2030 and 0.2% in 2050. We can reduce emissions, upgrade our infrastructure and energy system, catalyze good local jobs that cannot be exported, and save money.

But our work isn't done. The IEP makes one point clear: we need more action through policy to drive investment. Electrifying transportation offers an incredible and cost-effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the short-term, and the state has the opportunity to capture these reductions by passing S2252. In addition, all being said, to nearly decarbonize our economy and meet our 100% goals by 2050, we need continued action. This means investments in energy efficiency, offshore wind, solar, new infrastructure and workforce development amongst any. By continually monitoring our progress and rerunning our scenario plans, we can make adjustments and improvements allow us to accomplish these visionary goals. New Jersey LCV looks forward to working with the EMP committee, the BPU, the DEP, the Governor's office and the legislature to ensure that New Jersey becomes the most innovative state in the country addressing the climate crisis by passing the policies necessary to make this a reality.

With recent IPCC Reports, 11,000 scientists urging the need for action, major, record breaking hurricanes, and global rising emissions, action has never mattered more – and the IEP provides the empirical foundation to help get us there.

Sincerely,
Ed Potosnak