

From: [Laura Zurfluh](#)
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To Whom It May Concern,

I was unable to testify today due to the number of people that spoke, but here is the testimony I had prepared.

Every news story I read about the scientists studying climate change seems to have the same conclusion; our predictions of the severe weather to come and the devastating damage were wrong; it will be worse than we believed. It seems that as we amass more and more data, we find more and more reasons to be alarmed. The goals that the Empower NJ coalition have outlined are lofty but achievable. The difficulty in reaching these goals is not a reason to neglect to adopt them. Our country is famous for its ingenuity, as well as for achievements unheralded in history, starting with the longest continuous democracy up past becoming the first people to step on the moon. We should not underestimate our capability to win the fight against climate change, and, indeed, preserving our planet is the most important battle we've had to fight.

Governor Murphy promised to be an environmental advocate, and I applaud his efforts with the current New Jersey Energy Master Plan. Unfortunately, the EMP he has proposed does not address our reliance on natural gas. I'm not certain if this deficiency is because of the concern about our New Jersey resident's electric bills, or if it is the lobbying power of that industry, but there is no excuse for not looking to find and support alternate energy sources, and phase-out our use of natural gas. Empower NJ puts forth a goal of 100% clean energy by 2050, and in order to achieve this, we have been asking for a moratorium on all new fossil fuel projects until greenhouse gases are effectively regulated. The answer from the Governor is that he is awaiting recommendations in the Energy Master Plan, yet this plan does not address these expansion projects. It is not fair to the industry to continue to allow these projects, if we truly plan to regulate them out of existence, as needs to happen to achieve 100% clean energy by 2050.

I encourage the Governor and the Board of Public Utilities to carefully examine Empower NJ's response to the Energy Master Plan, and include their suggestions to make the plan stronger. We need a real plan to achieve 100% renewables in New Jersey. Our children's futures depend on it.

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