



MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the New Jersey Energy Master Plan Committee
FROM: Debra P. DiLorenzo, President & CEO, CCSNJ
RE: New Jersey Energy Master Plan
DATE: October 4, 2018

The Chamber of Commerce Southern New Jersey (CCSNJ) appreciates the opportunity to provide written comments to the New Jersey Energy Master Plan (EMP) Committee as a part of the public participation process.

The CCSNJ is aware of Governor Phil Murphy's ambitious goal to achieve 100 percent clean energy by 2050. Our organization is proud to have many member companies in both wind and solar energy production and we commend the Governor for much of his aggressive energy and environmental objectives.

However, the CCSNJ also believes that natural gas should also be considered in the clean energy goals of the final EMP. Natural gas is a cost-effective, clean energy alternative, which to date is the only fuel source in New Jersey that can lower overall energy costs for residents and businesses, as well as offset a greater investment in more expensive solar and offshore wind. Additionally, natural gas minimizes cost impacts to the state's most vulnerable residents on low incomes, and provides a more affordable business environment in the years ahead.

Considering the important role that natural gas plays in the state's overall energy picture, we believe it is critical that the state's natural gas supply infrastructure should be expanded. To that end, New Jersey should encourage new in-state and interstate pipeline capacity in order to capitalize on the abundant and affordable supply of clean natural gas in the Marcellus Shale, which is among the most affordable energy supplies in the world. This also must be reflected in its permitting to ensure a fair and transparent process for both federal and state projects that have been deemed in the public benefit and safe for the environment.

These objectives can be met with the federal interstate PennEast pipeline and the South Jersey-based BL England pipeline; the former of which accesses new geographic supplies of gas to lower costs, diversify supply points and increase reliability, the latter of which will provide clean natural gas to replace coal-burning power generation plant.

As former Secretary of Energy in the Administration of President Obama, Ernest J. Moniz stated, "natural gas has shown itself to be an important bridge to a clean energy future," and the CCSNJ is in complete agreement. We urge the EMP Committee to consider the importance and added benefits that the PennEast and BL England pipelines can bring not only to New Jersey, but also the role they will play in meeting Governor Murphy's overall clean energy goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh-in on the New Jersey Energy Master Plan.