



MORRIS COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

We Help Businesses Grow

September 10, 2020

Aida Camacho-Welch, Board Secretary
Jersey Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th floor
P.O. Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey 08625
board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov

Re: 2020 Jersey Central Power & Light Company (“JCP&L”) Base Rate Filing (Docket No. ER20020146)

Dear Ms. Camacho-Welch:

On behalf of the Morris County Chamber of Commerce (“Chamber”) and Morris County Economic Development Corporation (“MCEDC”), I am writing in support of JCP&L’s application. The Chamber and MCEDC recognize utility companies are important partners in creating the vibrant economy that New Jersey boasts, where businesses and communities thrive. In northern New Jersey, and Morris County in particular, we are fortunate to have extensive infrastructure to support a robust and diverse economy along the northeast corridor. With more than 800 headquarter locations for industries including life science, finance, technology, healthcare, manufacturing, education, transportation and logistics and aerospace and defense that collectively produce thousands of jobs and more than \$50 billion in gross regional product annually, this county is truly an economic engine for the nation. The thirty nine (39) municipalities in the county also rely on infrastructure to attract households to their residential communities supporting 500,000 residents collectively.

I urge the Commissioners to continue to invest in our infrastructure, considering what is at stake. Enhancing the electric system’s reliability and resiliency is vital to the continued economic success of the county and state. Especially considering that many employees are working remotely during the COVID crisis and may continue to do so for some time, restoring power after weather events for both residential and commercial customers will be paramount to ensuring that our economy can continue to perform at optimal levels. Investing in smart grid technology and energy efficient lighting is consistent with the New Jersey Energy Master Plan, having less deleterious impacts on the environment and would contribute to a reduction in overall costs in the long term. The reality is storms are unpredictable and are unfortunately impacting our state with greater frequency requiring an increase of expenses for storm recovery. It is our understanding that tree trimming and removal of hazardous trees is necessary to reduce the incidences and duration of power outages, as are continued maintenance and inspections.

Businesses and households rely on the state and utility companies including JCP&L to provide the infrastructure that they need to succeed. We are encouraged that JCP&L is moving its performance in the right direction and this rate case is another step to achieving the necessary investments to keep New Jersey competitive.

Sincerely,

Meghan Hunscher
President