

New Jersey

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**STATEMENT OF
JERRY KEENAN
PRESIDENT OF
NEW JERSEY ALLIANCE FOR ACTION
TO THE
NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
In the Matter of
DOCKET NO. QO20020184 New Jersey
2019/2020 Solar Transition
Solar Successor Program:
May 26, 2021**

I am Jerry Keenan, President of the New Jersey Alliance for Action. The Alliance for Action, founded in 1974, is a non-partisan and non-profit association representing thousands of business, labor, government, utility, education, professional and other New Jersey leaders. Our mission is to improve New Jersey's economy through the promotion of environmentally friendly capital construction and infrastructure investment.

The New Jersey Alliance for Action supports Governor Murphy's renewable energy goals and we believe solar power is key to our state's energy future, when the mix of energy sources will be much different than what it is today.

We thank the staff of the BPU for its work in attaining key benchmarks of the Clean Energy Act of 2018 and the attainment of 3.5 GW capacity of solar power, which will enable the state to add additional capacity to the electrical grid. The Solar Successor program identified additional attainment benchmarks for the realization of the goal of 100% carbon-free energy production by the year 2050. To date, nearly 130,000 solar installations have taken place in our state, making us a leader in such installations around the country, despite our state's small land size.

We should be proud that New Jersey ranks # 7 in the Us with a total of 3,520 MW of installed solar capacity as of January 31, 2021 and that we have an enhancement of an additional near 15% capacity (over 523 additional MW) in the pipeline.

The Alliance supports PSEG and its Solar 4 All program. This continuing program, begun in 2010, provides a framework for attaining additional solar energy capacity. In this case, a total of an additional 158 MW of solar capacity. This is great news for the state's electrical grid.

A great example of Solar 4 All's impact can be seen at landfills and brownfield sites in Trenton, Linden, Hackensack and other areas across New Jersey. These properties were unusable for development, but Solar 4 All is turning them into solar farms – creating energy for businesses and residents throughout the state.

The future value from the sale of the electricity generated from these “solar farm” sites, as it is sold into the wholesale electric energy market generates solar renewable energy certificates (SRECs) as well as federal investment tax credits. These combine to help offset the cost of the program.

New Jersey would be wise to continue its investment in solar energy. With the recent announcement of the preliminary figures from the US Census, our state added nearly 500,000 new residents in the past decade. The increasing population and the demand from new technologies - such as electric vehicles - will intensify the need for increased carbon free energy for our state's residents.

The New Jersey Alliance for Action applauds the work of the staff of the Board of Public Utilities in this Solar Successor program as well as the demonstrated response of PSE&G.

Thank you for the opportunity to supply this statement.

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