

**Wes Hill, Berlin Community School / Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Engineering  
Program at Rowan University  
Legislative Testimony  
February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021**

Good afternoon.

I'm Wes Hill, a former teacher at the Berlin Community School / PLTW Engineering Program at Rowan University. For approximately ten (10) years I have brought classes of eight-graders (120 per year) to visit PSEG Nuclear's Environmental and Energy Resource Center to learn about nuclear power and the many ways it benefits the people of South Jersey. We actually added the visit into the class curriculum.

My students learn that nuclear power is essential not only to the environment, but also and to the economy. They learn that nuclear power supplies 40% of the state's electricity – that it's a big part of what keeps the lights on at home and in school, and that the power charging their phones and tablets more than likely came from a nuclear power plant.

More importantly, as young people grow more and more concerned about climate change and its impact on their planet, they are happy to learn that nuclear provides more than 90% of the carbon-free power made in the state. We talk a lot about renewable energy, like solar or wind, but those resources today provide only about 5% of the state's power.

And, since we're all part of the South Jersey community, there are always students who live with or know someone who makes their livelihood helping these nuclear plants produce the energy we need. Their parents or neighbors are part of nuclear's enormous economic engine, providing millions of homes and businesses with safe, reliable power.

Unfortunately, I also have to tell my students that nuclear's future in New Jersey isn't guaranteed – and that most nuclear plants in the United States are struggling to stay afloat. My eight-graders recognize that nuclear energy provides many benefits for the environment, the climate and the communities they live in.

I urge you, on their behalf, to help ensure that they're able to keep doing good work long into the future.