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My name is Jeffrey R. Simpson and I am the General Manager of Electrical and Renewables for Riggs Distler & Company, Inc. I appreciate the Board allowing Riggs Distler to share its perspective on the New Jersey Energy Storage Incentive Program Straw Proposal.

Riggs Distler is a 113-year-old construction firm based in Cherry Hill, NJ. We are a Heavy Industrial, Generation and Utility contractor who provides turnkey solutions for complex energy infrastructure projects throughout the Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern United States utilizing unionized field employees and subcontractors. Our experienced project managers and union craft personnel coupled with our commitment to the environment, safety, planning and efficiency make us the perfect turnkey partner to deliver lasting results in our communities.

The Board's straw proposal is a constructive step toward the more sustainable future we all want. Energy storage can play a significant role in that future. Expanding energy storage resources will increase the value of clean technologies and help decarbonize New Jersey's power sector. The increased integration of renewable resources into the power grid will lead to more variable loads. Energy storage will help "firm up" these variable loads by storing or banking electricity for when customers need it, helping to ensure that supply meets demand efficiently. This includes managing the short-duration peak power requirement and maintaining the grid's frequency under stress. With their expertise in grid management and unparalleled understanding of customers' energy usage, utilities are perfectly positioned to develop these needed energy storage resources and help the State achieve its goal of having 2000 megawatts of energy storage in place by 2030. The utilities also value different energy storage benefits, such as reliability and resiliency that will be required for a sustainable future.

For those reasons, we were surprised that the NJ SIP overlooks the significant contribution the State's electric utilities can make to reaching the 2030 goal.

In fact, the State's largest electric utility, PSE&G, has already proposed a program to help New Jersey achieve its energy storage goal, including developing, owning, and operating energy storage systems and advancing the use of the technology in the State. PSE&G's proposal would spur additional solar development by smoothing short-term voltage changes associated with intermittent solar generation, handle forecasted overloads on the system, allow for the deferral of some utility system upgrades and provide backup power to critical facilities, maintaining a reliable supply of electricity during extended power outages. PSE&G has developed the expertise to accelerate the development of energy storage resources, having built five solar plus energy storage facilities with good results.

Historically, Riggs Distler has engaged in innovative renewable energy projects with PSE&G to support a better environment through energy storage. Since 2010, and in large part to PSEG's S4A Program, Riggs Distler has installed over 153 MWs of Utility Scale solar projects throughout New Jersey.

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The construction of these three projects can be directly attributed to the following actual Riggs Distler statistics:

1. 602,775 direct MHs worked by NJ residents. These MHs were worked by Engineers, Project Managers, Project Clerks, and Safety professionals.
2. These MHs translate into over \$39M in Wage and Fringe Benefit payments made by Riggs Distler directly to our union employees and fellow residents of NJ. These union positions, staffed by highly qualified and motivated NJ residents, are good paying jobs that include family medical and retirement benefits for our workers. These types of jobs help promote NJ's working middle class.
3. These projects also provided an additional \$13.3M in business for local NJ suppliers that were directly hired by Riggs Distler to provide services & commodities such as fuel, concrete, construction material, landscaping, and equipment rentals. These business transactions, between NJ businesses, have helped to spur NJ's economic development.

Allowing utilities to play a larger role in the NJ SIP would facilitate achieving the State's energy storage goals, like the utilities' contributions to developing solar energy. Revising the NJ SIP to include utilities would facilitate achieving the State's energy storage goals as it would add to that developed by private investors and enable New Jersey to become a national leader in clean energy, advanced technology development, and environmental excellence. PSE&G's track record for supporting programs that benefit the communities they serve in New Jersey, communities we are a part of, in addition to our first-hand experience working as a partner for a cleaner future for our families is why we support PSE&G's Energy Storage

Thank you

Jeffrey R. Simpson

General Manager of Electrical & Renewables  
Riggs Distler & Company, Inc.