

Good morning, my name is Paul Santarlas. I'm the President of QE Solar. QE Solar is a leading clean energy technology company that utilizes an engineering approach to all of our operations and maintenance services. Thank you for the opportunity to share our perspective on the NJ SIP Straw Proposal.

Energy Storage has a vital role to play in achieving New Jersey's clean energy vision. The State has made considerable progress in developing renewable resources, including solar and offshore wind, as well as energy efficiency. The more renewable energy on the grid, the better—but those resources are intermittent. Energy storage can make a key contribution to improving the reliability and resiliency of the grid by smoothing short-term voltage changes associated with intermittent solar generation.

To achieve 2,000 megawatts of energy storage by 2030, New Jersey must take full advantage of all resources to expedite the development of battery storage. That's why I was puzzled that the State's utilities, which manage the New Jersey electric grid, are excluded from the NJ SIP proposal. In addition to private investors, utilities can and should play a prominent role in spurring the development of energy storage resources in New Jersey.

PSE&G, New Jersey's largest utility, has proposed a program to develop 35 megawatts of battery energy storage. PSE&G has the expertise to quickly scale up the development of energy storage resources, similar to its contribution to growing New Jersey's solar industry over a decade ago.

I'm proud to say that QE is a prime example of New Jersey's growing clean energy economy, and our work with PSE&G has been vital to growing our business. We are the operations and maintenance contractor for 36 PSE&G solar facilities. Our work on 5 of their solar plus storage facilities has enabled QE to expand into energy storage. That has helped our Cranford, NJ-based business to grow from 20 employees to over 150 today.

I ask the Board to reconsider the straw proposal and allow utilities to make a larger contribution to achieving the State's energy storage goals, similar to the utilities' contribution to developing solar energy. Utility energy storage programs would be well suited to promote the integration of renewables onto the grid and support the electrification of transportation. Utilities are uniquely positioned to help mitigate the effects of intermittent renewable resources on the grid, promoting greater integration of renewables. And as QE illustrates, it would also help grow New Jersey's clean energy jobs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.