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Superintendent

Newark Board of Education

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Where Passion Meets Progress

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To: New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
Reference: BPU Docket No. Q022080540

As the Director of Energy and Sustainability at Newark Board of Education, I want to express my support for expanding the role of utilities in developing energy storage resources.

I applaud the Board for putting forth the straw proposal for the New Jersey Energy Storage Incentive Program (NJ SIP). The straw proposal is an important step toward developing the energy storage resources New Jersey needs. Energy storage can significantly contribute to New Jersey's goal of decarbonizing its energy sector.

However, I suggest the Board reexamine the NJ SIP's restrictions on utility participation. A larger role for utilities would help facilitate achieving New Jersey's ambitious target of having 2000 megawatts of energy storage in place by 2030. Utilities could quickly deploy energy storage at scale, enhancing the reliability and resiliency of the grid needed for a sustainable future all of us want. In particular, utilities make excellent partners for Public Schools like mine that are eager to employ energy storage to achieve our own sustainability goals.

We partnered with PSE&G to develop four solar facilities. Those projects helped Newark Board of Education shrink its carbon footprint and help educate our students about the clean energy transition that is underway. Through those projects, I saw firsthand PSE&G's technical expertise and commitment to excellence.

PSE&G is ready to contribute to the State's energy storage goals, much like it supported the growth of New Jersey's solar industry. It has submitted a proposal to create 35 MW of storage capacity. PSE&G already has considerable storage experience, having built five solar plus energy storage facilities as part of its Solar 4 All program.

Allowing utilities to play a larger role in the NJ SIP would facilitate achieving the State's energy storage goals, similar to the utilities' contribution to developing solar energy. We welcome more sustainable collaborations with PSE&G.

Sincerely,

Rodney L Williams, SFP, CEFM
Director of Energy & Sustainability