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Superintendent

Newark Board of Education

Rodney L Williams SFP, CEFM, Director of Energy and Sustainability
Facilities Management

Where Passion Meets Progress

To: New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
Reference: BPU Docket No. Q021060946

Hello. My name is Rodney L Williams and I am the Director of Energy and Sustainability at Newark Board of Education. The Newark School District is the largest and one of the oldest school systems in New Jersey. Our vision is to build a new educational ecosystem that provides a world-class education for every child in Newark from pre-kindergarten to secondary school students. I want to express my support for expanding the role of electric distribution companies (EDCs) in developing a Medium and Heavy Duty (MHD) Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Ecosystem. This is in line with the vision to have a clean environment and eco-friendly community.


I applaud the Board for putting forth the straw proposal for developing an MHD EV Charging Ecosystem in New Jersey. The straw proposal is an important step toward facilitating New Jersey's goals to reduce transportation sector emissions, combat climate change, reduce asthma triggers from vehicle emission and improve the State's overall air quality.

However, I suggest the Board reexamine the role of EDCs in the straw proposal. In my opinion a larger role for EDCs would help facilitate achieving New Jersey's electrification goals. Utilities have proven to make excellent partners for Public Schools like mine that are eager to employ electric school buses to achieve our own sustainability goals.

In the past, we partnered with PSE&G to develop four solar facilities. Those projects helped Newark Public Schools 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.

A larger role for the EDCs would help to expedite the conversion of medium- and heavy-duty vehicle fleets to electric, which would facilitate achieving the State's electrification goals, similar to the utilities' contribution to accelerating the growth of New Jersey's solar sector.

Sincerely,


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