

From: [Colleen Mahr](#)
To: [Secretary, BPUBoard \[BPU\]](#)
Cc: [Walter Lane](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BPU Docket No. QO21060946
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 5:11:50 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)



Administrator
COLLEEN MAHR
(908) 231-7102
cmahr@co.somerset.nj.us

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET NEW JERSEY

County Administration Building
20 Grove Street
P.O. Box 3000
Somerville, New Jersey 08876-1262
(908) 231-7040
Fax (908) 231-1740
www.co.somerset.nj.us
AdministratorsOffice@co.somerset.nj.us



Assistant to the Administrator
SHELLY L. BELL
(908) 231-7081
sbell@co.somerset.nj.us

January 23, 2023

NJ Public Board of Utilities

RE: BPU Docket No. QO21060946

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Somerset County, I am pleased to provide a few comments on the proposed Medium and Heavy Duty (MHD) Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Ecosystem document. Somerset County is at the hub of Central New Jersey. Our twenty-one (21) municipalities, which encompass 305 square miles, contain a diversity of landscape, population, and development that reflects the varied lifestyles of its estimated 345,367 residents.

The County is supportive of creating an expanding the role for electric distribution companies (EDCs) in developing a Medium and Heavy Duty (MHD) Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Ecosystem. This effort would help to advance the County's Climate Change Policy Statement adopted by the Board of County Commissioners in November of 2021. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions was a key part of our climate change efforts.

We 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 and improve the State's air quality.

However, the County suggests the Board reexamine the limitations of the MHD EV Straw Proposal. While the new proposal allows for support for electrifying private fleets, it is limited to entities located in Overburdened Municipalities (OBMs). Based upon the definition in the proposal, only a very small number of OBMs in the State will be eligible to receive funding for EV charger installation for private companies. This restriction will prevent many private companies throughout Somerset County that are eager to electrify their MHD fleets but may not have the means without make ready incentive support.

Somerset County has been pleased to work with PSE&G to enhance the electric and gas infrastructure throughout our municipalities. Allowing EDCs like PSE&G to provide additional investments in the medium and heavy-duty EV market will continue to foster the cooperative relationship that has been built between PSE&G and Somerset County, in addition to reducing emissions in the county and improving the quality of life for our residents.

- Mission Statement -

The County of Somerset is committed to excellence and innovation in public service, promoting the well-being of all residents and communities by providing effective, efficient and responsive leadership.

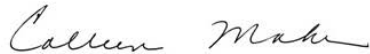
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A larger role for the EDCs would help to expedite the conversion of medium- and heavy-duty vehicle fleets to electric, which would facilitate achieving the State's electrification goals, similar to the utilities' contribution to accelerating the growth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

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please reach out to Walter Lane, Director of our Office of Planning, Policy, and Economic Development at lane@co.somerset.nj.us.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Colleen Mahr".

Colleen Mahr
County Administrator

CC: Somerset County Board of Commissioners
Walter Lane, Director, Office of Planning, Policy, and Economic Development

County of Somerset
20 Grove Street • P.O. Box 3000
Somerville, NJ 08876-1262
www.co.somerset.nj.us
Ph: 908-231-7102
Fx: 908-231-1740