December 18, 2023

Sherri L. Golden
Secretary of the Board
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor
Trenton, NJ 08625

Subject: Support for Infrastructure Investment Program II (EnergizeNJ) - BPU Docket No. EO23110793

Dear Secretary Golden,

I'm writing to lend my support for the proposed enhancement of our electric distribution infrastructure that is currently being evaluated. As the CEO of a social services provider in New Jersey, I'm certain that investing in the combination of grid modernization and system resiliency will add complementary strategies that can greatly enhance the performance and sustainability of our power systems.

New Jersey has the need for increased reliability to our electric distribution infrastructure. Upgrading power lines to carry more electricity and make the lines more durable against the weather emergencies, along with the integration of SmartGrid technology, make for a more reliable system. As the leading provider of shelter services and low-income housing in Morris County, we at Homeless Solutions are keenly aware of the difficulties faced by our shelter guests and tenants in our Transitional Housing Program and low-income apartments when the power is unreliable. These individuals do not have the resources that others may have during a power outage, so they are particularly affected.

This upgrade of the electric distribution infrastructure will also allow for the integration of renewable energy sources, which are key in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and addressing climate change and the broader state goals.

The EnergizeNJ program will also have a positive effect on job creation and stimulate economic growth in our region. I trust that the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities will thoroughly consider the merits of this program while also addressing any environmental or community concerns. I would like to urge the board to approve funding to ensure the forward momentum of this initiative.

Sincerely,

Dan McGuire
CEO, Homeless Solutions