

New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce

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February 7, 2024

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

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BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES TRENTON, NJ

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

Dear Secretary Golden:

I'm writing today to articulate my support for JCP&L's EnergizeNJ, the proposed enhancement of our electric distribution infrastructure, which is currently being evaluated.

The New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce ("State Chamber") is excited to see this proposed investment in the combination of grid modernization and system resiliency that will greatly enhance the performance and sustainability of our power systems which our state's businesses need today more than ever.

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. It allows for the integration of renewable energy sources, which are key in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and addresses 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. In addition to the jobs created to conduct these improvements and upgrades, a more reliable electric grid will be attractive to businesses to help to increase business retention and recruitment of businesses to our state.

I trust that the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities will thoroughly consider all of 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,

Thomas A. Bracken President & CEO

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