



June 12, 2024

New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
P.O. Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350

**Re: 2024 Update to the New Jersey Energy Master Plan; Docket Number
QO24020126**

Submitted electronically to: board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov

Dear NJBPU Commissioners:

The New Jersey Association of Clean and Renewable Energy (NJACRE) is a New Jersey-based organization dedicated to supporting our state's energy needs and infrastructure sector as it transitions to a cleaner energy future. We support, and provide education on, the inclusion of safe, reliable, clean, and innovative energy technologies while ensuring that our state's growing energy demands are met.

Our members – the public utilities, energy-industry businesses, and labor organizations that build, maintain, and operate New Jersey's energy infrastructure, support the State's goals of accelerating energy infrastructure modernization to minimize excess carbon pollution.

Making the grid carbon-free will require a massive investment and build-out of energy generation and transmission capacity. This process is going to be long and it's going to be expensive, but worthwhile and necessary. Furthermore, electricity demand is projected to increase, partly driven by the construction and development of new data centers and the continued introduction of artificial intelligence (AI).

Since 60% of our State's current electric supply comes from fossil fuel sources, meeting new energy demands requires a strategy that embraces all modes of existing energy supply and delivery — including **both** gas and electricity.

A responsible approach to grid modernization and carbon reduction must prioritize reducing overall energy demand, and avoid disincentivizing or outright prohibiting new alternative fuel generation sources that the federal government has embraced – notably renewable natural gas (RNG) and hydrogen energy production.

We recommend that the Board of Public Utilities acknowledge these realities as it considers the 2024 update to the State's Energy Master Plan and include an all-of-the-above approach that incorporates continued integration of RNG technology, hydrogen fuel generation and transmission, and modern fuel cell battery storage technologies.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dennis Culnan, Jr.
CEO, New Jersey Association of Clean and Renewable Energy