

Good Afternoon!

My name is Bernadette Maher and I am a long time resident of Franklin Township, Somerset. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony on the Draft New Jersey Energy Master Plan. I'm here to today not only as a concerned citizen of New Jersey but also as a member of a community that will be directly impacted by one of the 13 fossil fuel projects currently proposed in New Jersey.

Although the proposed draft energy plan is a step in the right direction, it falls short in several key areas and fails to address the urgency and scope of the action that must be taken to address climate change.

There are several areas of the plan that should be strengthened before it is finalized. Governor Murphy must declare a moratorium on all new fossil fuel projects until GreenHouse Gases are effectively regulated. As highlighted by Empower New Jersey, permitting any of the dozen proposed fossil fuel projects would ensure New Jersey would fail to meet even the state's current goals for reducing GreenHouse Gasses. Ignoring the call for a moratorium and allowing new fossil fuel projects to move forward will increase GreenHouse Gas emissions by over 30%. Further, the dangers fracked natural gas poses extend beyond just health and environmental risks- the short term promise of saving at the expense of lethal future costs puts renewable energy projects on the back burner.

These proposed projects include

- PennEast Pipeline
- Northeast Supply Enhancement (NESE) (Somerset, Middlesex, and the Raritan Bay)
- Southern Reliability Link (Pinelands)
- Garden State Expansion Project (Bordentown, Chesterfield)
- Gateway Expansion Project (Roseland and Paterson)
- Rivervale South to Market (Bergen, Hudson Counties, and the Meadowlands)
- Lambertville East Expansion (Lambertville)
- North Bergen Liberty Generating Station (North Bergen)
- Phoenix Energy Center (Holland Township)
- Keasbey Energy Center (Woodbridge)
- NJ Transit Meadowlands Power Plant (Kearny)
- LNG Port (Gibbstown)

My local community is directly impacted by the NorthEast Supply Enhancement Project (NESE). This project includes a 32,000 horsepower gas fired compressor station and a pipeline that will run under the Raritan Bay extending to New York. The NESE project will contribute to Greenhouse gas emissions rather than reduce them. Increased greenhouse gas emissions from projects of this nature will lead to significant weather events (flooding, hurricanes, heatwaves) in addition to several other harmful effects. Adding to the negative impacts of climate change on New Jersey residents, water resources,

wildlife, and economy while also increasing the risks and the likelihood of infectious diseases, stress, and displacement. This project poses several health and environmental risks that impact multiple New Jersey Communities. Without a moratorium on all new fossil fuel projects, projects like NESE will move forward and put New Jersey citizens and the environment in danger.