

Belmonte, Juan

From: Jennifer Nielsen <jnnielsen2000@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2019 9:42 PM
To: comments, EMP
Subject: [EXTERNAL] IEP Feedback

Dear President Fiordaliso and Commissioners Holden, Solomon, Chivukula and Gordon,

On November 5, a [viewpoint](#) published in the peer review journal Bioscience begins,

"Scientists have a moral obligation to clearly warn humanity of any catastrophic threat and to "tell it like it is." On the basis of this obligation and the graphical indicators presented below, we declare, with [more than 11,000 scientist signatories](#) from around the world, clearly and unequivocally that planet Earth is facing a climate emergency."

The statement goes on **to demand radical action** to address the crisis. "An immense increase of scale in endeavors to conserve our biosphere is needed to avoid untold suffering due to the climate crisis (IPCC 2018)," including "massive energy efficiency and conservation practices," "quickly cutting emissions of short-lived climate pollutants, such as soot and methane," reductions in "excessive consumption of the wealthy lifestyle [of]...the most affluent countries," "a much higher carbon fee price," and transition to "a carbon free economy".

As the third most rapidly warming state in the nation with abundant renewable resources, **New Jersey can and must be a global leader in addressing our climate emergency**. Instead, I am dismayed by the modesty of the Integrated Energy Plan (IEP) shared on November 1. While you present a comprehensive description of the sources of emissions and nine scenarios for meeting reduction targets by 2050, I believe we can and must be more aggressive in drawing down our contributions to climate change, to achieve 100% clean energy by 2050 and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 80% by 2050. We should also have a plan to meet the urgent 45% cut in GHGs by 2030, a goal the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says we must reach to avoid cataclysmic damage. The plan should include an accurate estimate of the most damaging pollutants like methane and black carbon, and account for the social costs of continued reliance on and use of fossil fuels.

And while I celebrated the Governor's recent announcement that he is unequivocally opposed to the North Bergen Gas Power Plant, by my count there are still 12 fossil fuel projects that New Jersey and the planet cannot afford and that should be canceled and replaced with ramped up investments in our rich wind resources.

The costs of a weak IEP will be far greater than an ambitious plan, and these will be costs our children will have to bear. What responsible parent would dare to impose such a burden on her children?

Respectfully,

Jennifer Nielsen

434 Ridgewood Road

Maplewood NJ 07040

I work for a non-profit in international public health and volunteer with [SOMA Action](#) on Climate issues