

From: [Kirstin Hara](#)
To: [comments_EMP](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 2019 Draft Energy Master Plan
Date: Wednesday, September 11, 2019 12:26:20 PM

Dear Governor Murphy,

When I first found out that I was moving to NJ, over 15 years ago, I had that unfounded but solidly stereotypical response of biased aversion. I even noted to myself how strange it was to have such a negative bias towards NJ based on what? some media-driven cultural narrative? Frankly, I didn't even know where this bias came from, I simply knew that some part of me said, "Ugh, why NJ? Why can't I move to PA instead." Upon moving here I found myself aghast that the motto of NJ as "The Garden State" was not the dominant narrative outside of the state itself. Where I live is stunningly beautiful and I'm grateful every day that I live in such a gorgeous and magical place.

It seems to me that NJ could live up to this "Garden State" slogan in a radical and wholistic way. I can imagine NJ being one of the leading states in taking global warming so seriously that we are willing to do everything to lead by example to other states. Just like I thought it was strange and a bit appalling that I would have such a negative view of NJ before even moving here, I find it equally strange and very appalling that the citizens of the United States and our representatives do not recognize what climate change means and how we truly need large scale and broad governmental initiatives (as well as change from our largest corporations) to truly make life as we know it sustainable for my/your children's children.

I actually believe that you have the ability and leadership to push for bolder action on this front, to be a leader~ actually the leader we all need right now on this issue. Forget being carbon neutral by 2050. What we NEED is to be go for 100% clean, renewable energy by 2050. Forget about interim, short-term fossil fuel plans~ we are way beyond that now. What we NEED are no new fossil fuel projects at all.

Personally, I'm not so interested in the bizarre slogan of "Saving the Planet." We do not need to save the planet. The earth is fine and will probably be better off with an ultimately more balanced ecosystem, if we humans create an environment (due to our choices) that we personally cannot survive in. What we need to do is "Save Ourselves." We need to recognize we are in a position of making choices that will determine whether life for the future human mammal is possible on this planet. We need to recognize that if we don't make better choices in this regard we may be creating an environment that will be more and more difficult for the human species to thrive in until we simply cannot anymore. This is not hyperbole. It seems perfectly reasonable to me that this could happen to the human species, I just hope that it is not because we didn't make smarter, bolder choices NOW that could prevent it.

Be the bold leader on this issue that we need, Governor Murphy.

Sincerely,
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