



GORDON M. JOHNSON
SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
ASSEMBLYMAN, 37TH DISTRICT

NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEES

CHAIRMAN
COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

MEMBER
JUDICIARY

MEMBER
BUDGET

545 CEDAR LANE
TEANECK, NJ 07666
PHONE: 201-530-0469
FAX: 201-530-0486

October 12, 2018

Cynthia Holland, Director
Office of Federal and Regional Policy
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
PO Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Ms. Holland,

As the Board of Public Utilities studies proposals for sustainable and resilient infrastructure for the Energy Master Plan, the Board must include fuel cells as a component of the plan. Fuel cells use natural gas to create electricity and heat for the consumer, at up to 80% efficiency and emitting a fraction of the pollution from traditional power generation. Fuel cells are black start capable during an emergency power loss, enabling them to take the place of backup diesel generators.

Fuel cells are the ideal distributed energy resource, producing 10MW of electricity on less than an acre of land. They can be easily sited in dense areas, and do not produce noise or pollution that would harm vulnerable communities. Fuel cells continue to produce electricity during emergency weather events, such as Hurricane Sandy, blizzards, and wildfires. Backup fuel cells produce power considerably longer than diesel generators or batteries. The Board of Public Utilities should encourage the use of fuel cells in place of backup diesel generators. The Board should also allow fuel cells that do not have combined heat and power to qualify for existing incentives.

The electricity produced by fuel cell powered vehicles can be redirected and used to power homes. This technology is currently in use in Japan, where a fuel cell car comes with an adapter to electrify a home for up to 7 days. Though not adapted for the American market, this demonstrates how fuel cells can be utilized to provide power to consumers without the noise, pollution, or constant refueling required by traditional backup generators.

Sincerely,

Gordon M. Johnson
Assemblyman, District 37