

To: Governor Phil Murphy,
Board of Public Utilities

From: Lawrence J. Furman
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Re: Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure
Public Comments on the Energy Master Plan
October 10, 2018

Thank you for extending this opportunity to comment on the Energy Master Plan. It is a privilege to live in a state where ideas and opinions are sought by the agents of this government “of the people, by the people and for the people.”

My name is Lawrence Furman. I live in Manalapan. Back in 2012, when Sandy hit, we lost power for eight (8) days. We lost a refrigerator full of food. But we were lucky. A friend of mine, Louise, in Highlands, lost her house. My daughter was at Rutgers at the time. She didn't lose power. We went to New Brunswick a couple of times to get a hot cup of coffee and charge our cellphones. Then we went to my father's house in Staten Island. Louise couldn't go to her parent's house – they also lived in Highlands.

We have about 2,500 public K-12 schools in New Jersey. Taxpayers pay the electric bills and pay for infrastructure.

If we install 50 KW solar array on each of those schools, at a cost of \$2.00 per watt, \$100,000 per school, \$250 Million statewide, we would have power systems that do not burn fuel and create waste with every kwh they generate.

Our public schools operate primarily during daylight hours. So with solar they would have power when needed when the weather is good.

If we add the equivalent of 20 Tesla Powerwall battery packs to each school, at a cost of about \$90,000, per school, then, for an investment \$190,000 per school and \$475 Million, we would have schools with power day and night in every community in New Jersey.

And if we add a grid-disconnect circuit, something that knows when there is power failure and takes the school off the grid, then when the next Sandy hits we would have emergency shelters with power in every community in New Jersey, from Cape May to the Skylands. My estimate for this is \$250 to \$1000 per unit, so another \$625,000 to \$2.5 million, bringing the total to \$475.6 to \$477.5 million.

My estimated total for this is \$477.5 Million. But in settling for \$225 Million the \$9.25 Billion lawsuit Gov. Christie essentially gave Exxon Mobil a gift from the taxpayers of over \$9 Billion dollars. This proposal amounts to less than 5.31% of that \$9 Billion. It's less than 5.31¢ on every taxpayer dollar Chris Christie gave Exxon. And the citizens of New Jersey would actually derive benefits, in sustainable energy infrastructure and emergency preparedness, from this investment.

About Lawrence Furman

A “Futurist” with an MBA in Sustainable Management, Furman co-founded Popular Logistics, a think tank which explores ecological economics and energy policy in 2007. He ran for General Assembly in LD 12 in 2013. He has been speaking to the BPU and other government agencies in New Jersey on energy policy since 2005.