

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Members of the New Jersey Energy Master Plan Committee

FR: Dan Kennedy, Director of Environmental & Utility Operations
Utility & Transportation Contractors Association (UTCA)

DA: October 12, 2018

RE: New Jersey Energy Master Plan

The Utility and Transportation Contractors Association (UTCA) appreciates the opportunity to provide written comments to the New Jersey Energy Master Plan Committee.

UTCA understands the ambitious goals set by the Murphy Administration and the Legislature related to clean and renewable energy and is supportive of a diverse portfolio of energy sources and investments in associated infrastructure. However, we also believe that the environmental aspects of clean energy goals are best measured incrementally as opposed to relying on a binary, “clean vs. dirty” metric. Progress is, by definition, transitory, and the state strategy to reach our shared goals should reflect that fact. Energy sources that make a measurable improvement to public health are a viable and necessary step in the effort to realize a 100% renewable energy future. As such, UTCA firmly believes that natural gas should be considered a key component of that transition.

Additionally, UTCA believes the following should be prioritized in the revised Energy Master Plan:

- New, in-state clean energy production should be expanded, including offshore wind, utility scale solar, and natural gas.
- In-state and interstate pipeline capacity should be carefully expanded to capitalize on the abundant and affordable supply of natural gas in the region.
- A portion of discretionary spending from reentry into RGGI, environmental settlements, and other funding areas should be dedicated to the development of innovative energy technologies, especially utility scale energy storage.
- Through technical assistance, funding and permit coordination, the state should facilitate and incentivize upgrades at water and wastewater treatment plants to help minimize the use of less-clean energy from out-of-state sources, especially during peak

periods. Savings from these investments could be added to existing budgets of water utilities to assist in the repair and replacement of crumbling infrastructure assets.

- Support the utility, construction, and transportation sectors achieve energy goals by providing programs that support the voluntary replacement of equipment and vehicles that are more energy efficient and use cleaner fuels.
- The NJ Infrastructure Bank is the agency best suited for the administration of programs related to utilities investments.

Thank you for your consideration, please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

About the UTCA of NJ

The Utility and Transportation Contractors of New Jersey is a non-profit trade association headquartered in Wall Township, New Jersey. Founded in 1965, UTCA represents approximately 1,000-member firms in the public and private sectors, active in all phases of heavy, highway, utility, and marine construction, as well as site work including remediation of brownfields and contaminated sites.