

The Honorable Phil Murphy
Office of the Governor
PO Box 001
Trenton NJ 08625-0001



March 3, 2019

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Office of the Governor
PO Box 001
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0001

Re: Opposition to North Bergen Liberty Generating Plant;
Support for a moratorium on all new fossil fuel infrastructure projects

Dear Governor Murphy:

I am writing to express my dismay at your failure to act to block the proposed North Bergen Liberty Generating Plant. More broadly, I am disappointed that you have not acted nearly as forcefully as you can to move New Jersey away from dependence on fossil fuels and toward use of renewable sources of energy.

You have admirably supported having all of New Jersey's energy generated by clean, renewable sources by 2050. In the face of global warming, an existential threat to humanity, each jurisdiction must minimize its production of greenhouse gases. Technically, the Liberty Generating Plant would not count against your clean energy goal, as it would provide energy to only New York (which has not even clearly indicated that it needs this source). Yet it would emit 3.5 million tons of carbon dioxide annually in New Jersey for the next three or four decades, increasing total CO₂ emissions from New Jersey's power plants by 19%. It would also increase Hudson and Bergen Counties' already heavy burden of ozone, which directly affects human health. Finally, it would use natural gas extracted by "fracking," for which there is increasing evidence of deleterious environmental and public health effects.

As governor, you should do far more than "call balls and strikes" in enforcing environmental rules that were promulgated under the Christie administration, which cared relatively little about global warming.

- You can lead the development of new rules that would move toward an end to reliance on fossil fuels.
- You can support new infrastructure projects that would provide the jobs that construction unions are eager to see, without the creation of a noxious power plant.
- You can recognize that energy planning and production are at least regional problems that need regional solutions. Thus, clean power generation must be actively promoted in assessing the full environmental impact of individual projects even if they would pollute just a part of the state. Subverting clean energy by fecklessly acquiescing in decision processes that fail to address current environmental dangers is not acceptable.

I therefore strongly urge you to make the necessary decisions to halt further steps toward construction of the Liberty Generating Plant and to implement a moratorium on all new fossil fuel infrastructure projects in New Jersey, so that we can rapidly move toward complete reliance on clean, renewable energy sources.

Yours very truly,

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP _____

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