

*New Jersey*

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## **Testimony of the New Jersey Alliance for Action**

### **In Support of PSE&G Infrastructure Advancement Program Filing BPU Docket Nos.: EO21111211 & GO21111212**

### **Before The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Thursday, May 5, 2022**

Hearing Officer Weisband, thank you for the opportunity to submit comments for the record in support of the Filing by Public Service Electric & Gas Co. for its Infrastructure Advancement Program.

My name is William Healey and I serve as Special Advisor to the President at the NJ Alliance for Action. This evening, I represent our President, Gerald T. Keenan.

The New Jersey Alliance for Action, formed in 1974, is a non-partisan and non-profit association representing thousands of business, labor, government, utility, education, professional and other New Jersey leaders. Our mission is to improve New Jersey's economy through the promotion of environmentally friendly capital construction and infrastructure investment.”

The Alliance speaks in strong support for the four-year \$848 Million plan proffered by PSE&G.

There is probably no time in our state's history that the improvement of our infrastructure has been more important. Utility infrastructure and capability is among the most critical. It speaks to the 50-year mission of this organization.

The Alliance's mission is to improve New Jersey's economy through the promotion of capital construction and infrastructure investment. We are proud that for almost 50 years, the Alliance for Action has been regarded as infrastructure's biggest advocate in the Garden State. We bring diverse audiences together and lend our voice of advocacy for the future betterment of our state.

And that audience is growing as our population grows. As this Board is aware, New Jersey's population grew by more than 500,000 between 2010 and 2020. The demands on every utility in this state are increasing as well.

The plan of PSE&G will include needed improvements to its electric distribution system and its most aged electric stations. In the natural gas arena, it will be updating measuring and regulating stations.

In anticipation of the emergence of electric vehicles for both consumer and commercial use, part of this infrastructure plan will support the planned electrification of PSE&G's own utility fleet of vehicles that we see on our roads every day. This plan also supports the changeover in the vehicles that will be piloted by NJ residents by the end of this decade, when a near majority of them and more than half of new vehicles sold are expected to be EVs.

PSE&G has been incredibly committed for a very long time to a carbon free future for our state. This is evident in its strong partnerships on ocean wind and solar. This plan also makes provision for the integration of those technologies into the distribution grid. These are better known as distributed energy resources.

As the state's largest utility, PSE&G has the most to contribute to the success of the State's Energy Master Plan, one that recognizes that the roles of our homes and our business buildings are changing. That trend started prior to 2020, but the pandemic has reshaped that irrevocably. People being in their homes more places new challenges on utility companies for loads and peak demands. They certainly will change from what they had been.

Throughout its history, the Alliance has been an advocate not just for the infrastructure that needs to be built, but also for the women and men who will build it, led by our union building and construction trades. This plan will also create building and construction trades jobs, as well as new jobs at PSE&G.

Thank you to the Board of Public Utilities for allowing the NJ Alliance for Action to participate in this important public comment hearing.