

David Velazquez  
President and CEO

Pepco  
701 Ninth St., NW  
Washington, DC. 20068

April 12, 2017

Dear David Velazquez,

We are writing to express our concern about the recent comment made by Edison Electric Institute's Chairman, Thomas Fanning, regarding the science of climate change. During a March 28 appearance on CNBC's "Squawk Box," Mr. Fanning was asked if he thinks it has been proven that carbon dioxide is the primary driver of climate change. Mr. Fanning responded, "No, certainly not."<sup>1</sup> He continued by stating, "climate change has been happening for millennia, that's not the issue."<sup>2</sup>

Carbon dioxide emissions and its role in driving climate change is accepted science. Carbon dioxide is the primary greenhouse gas emitted by human activity. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reports that in 2014, carbon dioxide accounted for about 80.9% of all U.S. greenhouse gas emissions from human activities.<sup>3</sup>

Secondly, it appears that Mr. Fanning implied that because "climate change has been happening for millennia," humans and greenhouse gas emissions, specifically carbon dioxide, are not causing the current changes. This is false. The National Academy of Sciences reports "most of the warming over the last several decades can be attributed to human activities," and that the "burning of fossil fuels for energy is the single largest human driver of climate change."<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> CNBC. March 28, 2017. *Like the new EPA chief, Southern Company's CEO doesn't see CO2 as main reason for climate change.*  
<http://www.cnbc.com/2017/03/28/like-the-new-epa-chief-southern-companys-ceo-doesnt-see-co2-as-main-reason-for-climate-change.html>

<sup>2</sup> CNBC.

<sup>3</sup> United States Environmental Protection Agency. Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Overview of Greenhouse Gases.  
<https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/overview-greenhouse-gases#CO2%20references>

<sup>4</sup> National Research Council. 2010. *Advancing the Science of Climate Change*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.  
<https://doi.org/10.17226/12782>

Pepco has recognized the benefits of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, is taking action to reduce its own carbon footprint, and has partnered with state regulators to advance renewable energy goals.<sup>5</sup>

As a member of the Edison Electric Institute, does Pepco support the chairman's recent statement regarding climate change? If not, will Pepco remain a member of the Edison Electric Institute?

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

David Pomerantz  
Executive Director  
Energy and Policy Institute

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<sup>5</sup> Pepco. Addressing Climate Change.  
<http://www.pepco.com/community-commitment/protect-the-environment/addressing-climate-change/>