

August 9, 2019

Via Hand Delivery

Ms. Lora W. Johnson, Clerk of Council  
New Orleans City Council  
Room 1E09, City Hall  
1300 Perdido Street  
New Orleans, LA 70112

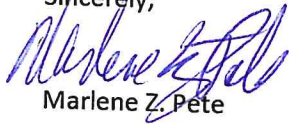
Dear Ms. Johnson:

Please find the enclosed original and four copies of my organization's letter to the New Orleans City Council regarding the Renewable Portfolio Standard (Docket No. UD-19-01).

Please file the original and three copies of the letter into the record, and return a date-stamped copy to me.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Marlene Z. Pete

Enclosure

August 9, 2019

Marlene Z. Pete  
1607 Alabo Street  
New Orleans, LA 70177

Cyndi.Nguyen@nola.gov  
jasonwilliams@nola.gov  
morenocouncil@nola.gov

Dear City Council Members:

My name is Ms. Marlene Pete, I am a Retiree, Home Owner, Community Activist & a Community Health Ambassador for Sankofa, CDC. I am concerned in regards to the health, well-being and sustainability of our great city. Please keep in mind that the protection for people and our great City of New Orleans is paramount. Implementing a Renewable Portfolio Standard would be instrumental, cost effective and life changing for all New Orleanians.

As you all know Climate Change poses many threats to life and coastal Louisiana is especially vulnerable. We know and experienced hotter temperatures, rising sea levels, stronger storms which have grave implications for the future of our coast, communities, and cultures. Town Hall meetings (Community Involvement) and promoting sound policies and requirements should be implemented. I must say transparency is key.

Infrastructure should be more modern and efficient. I am recommending identifying gaps in funded street repair projects and unfunded streets (Sidewalks) in neighborhoods with higher rates of poverty, and identify streets that need transit priority and connected bikeways safe for all ages. All investments should meet resiliency goals with the following recommendations. Encourage beneficial electrification in local transportation systems and prioritize easier access to faster and more reliable boarding with new transit pass technology that connects to other public services and benefits.

Encourage and support building owners/landlords to improve energy efficiency in rental housing. By doing this you will lessen the energy burdens for renters and homeowners, improve health outcomes, and improve aging housing stock. Building codes should be updated and incentivize rental housing efficiency and solar programs.

Establish a local hiring policy for employment and incentivize locally sited generation projects and prioritize locally owned businesses for incentive programs. Create safe, livable jobs in waste reduction and collection by setting quality standards for wages and safety (develop waste and energy job training programs for all New Orleanians).

Big (Petrochemical & Gas-Fired Power Plants) companies should stop polluting the air and environment with "TOXIC CHEMICALS" (carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides, chloroprene & other toxic pollutants) which causes asthma, serious respiratory illnesses, cancer and other related health problems. Require utility companies to increase the percentage of energy generated by renewable sources, like solar, wind, geothermal; a way of reducing the use of fossil fuels that contribute to climate change and worsen air quality.

Raising the consciousness and informing Orleanians about what is a Renewable Portfolio Standard and the what, when, where, who & why, our Climate is changing is important. First of all everyone would be affected. However, low income poverty stricken people and the most vulnerable (underserved communities) will suffer a catastrophic impact.

Do not invest in technology that requires the sacrifice of a neighborhood's air, soil, water, or real estate values. I am looking forward to discussions in regards to the RPS drafting. I hope we can unite to seek more ambitious goals in energy efficiency and renewables in line with the N.O. Climate Action Plan. I would like to discuss the issues and recommendations in my letter. If you would like to contact me my number is listed below. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Marlene Z. Peto

504.232.5303