



November 18, 2020

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

RE: Docket No. UD-19-01

In Re: Resolution and Order Establishing a Docket and Opening a Rulemaking to Establish Renewable Portfolio Standards

Dear Ms. Johnson:

The American Association of Blacks in Energy (“AABE” or “Association”) is the nation’s premiere energy professional association representing the interests of African American leaders and employees in the energy industry, in addition to the communities of color they serve. The Association consists of over 2000 members nation-wide, including 38 chapters covering 28 states and the District of Columbia. The Association’s mission is to provide direct input into the deliberations and developments of energy policies, regulations, emerging technologies, and environmental issues, particularly as these issues impact African American and underserved communities. We are writing to provide additional comment on the current Resolution and Order Establishing a Docket and Opening a Rulemaking to Establish Renewable Portfolio Standards.

The Association submitted comment pursuant to the current docket earlier in the proceeding (July 1, 2019).<sup>1</sup> We commend the New Orleans City Council (“Council”) for its continued work to address climate change, and to ensure energy affordability, reliability, and resiliency for New Orleans’s African American and low-income consumers.

In the Association’s earlier filing, we stated, “If we are to be successful in climate change mitigation, the country must continue investing in the future of energy, and developing strategies that avoid additional harm to the environment. This necessarily means turning to all resources available that reduce carbon impact. Development of a diverse portfolio of low to zero carbon resources is the best strategy to reduce carbon emissions today, and is a recommended approach for the future, particularly as we consider issues related to energy as a local, state, and national security asset.”<sup>2</sup> AABE commends

---

<sup>1</sup> See American Association of Blacks in Energy Comment, July 1, 2019.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

the Council for its broad approach to reduce the effects of climate change through energy policy—looking to multiple resources, technology, and science, as the necessary vehicles to achieve reduced and zero-emission goals.

In the Association’s earlier comment, it also asked the Council to consider the impact of energy policy on consumer rates. We must ensure that as New Orleans and the nation address needed emission reductions, policy makers also avoid unnecessarily increasing the energy burden for those consumers least able to afford it. A flexible reliance on energy technologies and resources can assist the Council in achieving a win-win for customers. Energy rates can remain low while carbon emission rates are substantially reduced.

The Association greatly appreciates the opportunity to provide additional comment on these important issues. Thank you for your consideration of our views, and we look forward to our continued work together.

Sincerely,



Paula Glover  
President & CEO  
American Association of Blacks in Energy

cc:  
Honorable Jason Rogers Williams  
Honorable Helna Moreno  
Honorable Joseph I. Giarusso  
Honorable Jay H. Banks  
Honorable Kristin Gisleson Palmer  
Honorable Jared C. Brossett  
Honorable Cyndi Nguyen