



HELENA MORENO  
COUNCILMEMBER AT-LARGE

Office (504) 658-1060  
1300 Perdido Street • Suite 2W40  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

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*New Orleans City Council*

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May 24, 2021

John R. Bear  
Chief Executive Officer  
Midcontinent Independent System Operator  
720 City Center Drive  
Carmel, IN 46032

Dear Mr. Bear:

The extreme weather events in the Gulf South region caused by climate change have increased in both intensity and frequency. As the Chair of the Utility, Cable, Telecommunications and Technology Committee (“Utility Committee”) for the Council of the City New Orleans, I’ve championed a focused transition for the City of New Orleans to utilize more clean and sustainable energy resources to mitigate the adverse impacts from climate change that threaten New Orleans and the future of the planet.

We believe that we have already taken meaningful steps to avert this potential calamity. An example of this commitment is the Council’s resolution establishing Renewable and Clean Portfolio Standard (“RCPS”) regulations with an aggressive goal to move the city and the city’s public utility, Entergy New Orleans (“ENO”), to net zero emissions by 2040 and end carbon emissions from electricity generation by 2050. As part of this effort, we’ve pressed ENO to add 100 megawatts of solar generation to increase the portfolio of carbon-free energy resources serving the city’s power needs. But our work is far from done.

We deeply understand that the Council will not be able to achieve these ambitious goals solely by its own actions on climate. Rather, it will require long-term planning, cooperation, and coordination with federal, state, and local agencies and communities. In addition, it will require looking not only at local renewable resources, but also remote resources. This will involve upgrading and expanding the wholesale transmission system to increase the access to low-cost, renewable energy resources. Recently, President Biden announced a significant infrastructure proposal that seeks to help state and local regulators and utilities meet their climate goals by strengthening the bulk power system to enable more renewable energy to add clean power to the grid. Chair Moreno will work with the Biden Administration to get any available federal assistance for the city to achieve its climate objectives.

It is at this time we want to take the opportunity to highlight the importance of MISO’s work in Long-Range Transmission Planning (“LRTP”) process to identify and evaluate potential candidate solutions to ensure the reliability of the bulk power system with the increased penetration of intermittent renewable resources. We support this vital effort that we believe will increase system reliability and vastly increase New Orleans’ access to renewable energy.

As Chair of the Utility Committee, I also believe that MISO’s LRTP aligns with President Biden’s infrastructure proposal and is a critical and necessary step in making sure the transmission infrastructure is built and in place to achieve the city’s long-term climate action goals. Both of these efforts should

provide real benefits to the city and its electric customers by increasing the access to low-cost, cleaner energy to serve the city's energy needs.

This Council is strongly committed to taking the necessary actions to confront climate change. It will take a significant level of transmission investment to make the bulk power system stronger, more reliable, and able to meet the climate goals of the Council and other states within MISO. We will continue to press for policies that ensure any costs allocated to New Orleans will be at least equal to the benefits to our ratepayers and provide greater opportunities for rapid climate action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Helena Moreno". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "H" and "M".

Helena Moreno  
Chair, Council Utilities Committee  
President, New Orleans City Council