

August 31, 2018

By Hand Delivery
Lora W. Johnson
Clerk of Council
Room 1E09, City Hall
1300 Perdido St.
New Orleans, LA 70122

RE: Request for New Orleans City Council Utility Committee to open a Rulemaking docket for a Renewable Portfolio Standard

Dear Ms. Johnson,

Enclosed please find an original and three copies of the attached letter. Please file the letter and return one time-stamped copy to our courier, in accordance with normal procedures.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

Andy Kowalczyk / Sustainable Labor Chair
350 New Orleans
1115 Congress Street
New Orleans, LA 70117

To the City Council of New Orleans,

Proposal for Utility Docket on Rulemaking of a Renewable Portfolio Standard

In response to recent hearings on reliability issues and slow progress on behalf of Entergy New Orleans to provide renewable generation resources, the signatories below urge the council to open a utility docket for adoption of a renewable portfolio standard (RPS) for New Orleans utilities.

The establishment of this standard is meant to set goals for a diversified energy mix that includes renewable energy resources and demand side management measures like energy efficiency, energy storage resources and demand response. Goal setting for these measures will ensure accountability for the utilities of The City of New Orleans to the Utility Committee, as well as ratepayers. This standard should not be viewed as a constraint on utilities; renewable portfolio standards that require utilities to sell a percentage of renewable energy to ratepayers and increase energy efficiency measures are currently in place for 29 states, Washington DC and three territories¹ and have proven to spur economic growth where they have the highest percentage mandate².

A thoughtful standard for the City of New Orleans will pave the way for greater reliability and affordability and will yield sustainable economic and environmental benefits to improve the resilience and quality of life for residents. Such a standard has been proven to advance social justice and equity, reduce energy costs for low income households, and create jobs and small business opportunities³.

Furthermore, the rising cost of natural gas⁴ and decommissioning of aging sources of generation make a compelling argument for a sizable inclusion of renewable energy resources for The City of New Orleans' energy mix. The void left by decommissioned resources in coming years should be filled by renewable resources, which have consistently seen cost decreases year-over-year even in the presence of tariffs that have been levied on imports. As costs rise for gas, coal, and nuclear generated power, the costs of renewable energy resources are consistently declining. Thoughtfully adding fuel-free resources provides a hedge against these volatile costs, reducing risk to energy burdened households and can improve affordability. The establishment of a rulemaking for a renewables portfolio standard by the New Orleans City Council can address these issues and create an atmosphere of accountability that will ensure renewable energy targets can be met.

Goal setting through renewable portfolio standards implemented for state and municipal governments nationwide have shown that it is an effective and economically beneficial means to achieve clean energy goals as well as increase jobs, reduce energy burdens on low income households, and achieve reliability. According to the Department of Energy, nearly 200,000 jobs were supported by various Renewable Portfolio Standards in 2013. 1,581 jobs were supported by the solar industry in Washington DC in 2017 (RPS of 50% by 2032), which has a similar utility regulatory environment as the City of New Orleans. With a firm renewables goal, the Council Utility Committee has the means to create a path towards affordable energy, economic prosperity and a way to mitigate reliability issues. We, the below signatories, observe that these benefits are evident through recent hearings with our utilities, and urge the council to open a rulemaking regarding a renewable portfolio standard for the City of New Orleans.

Respectfully submitted,

Footnotes

¹ Source - DSIRE / Department of Energy summary map on Renewable Portfolio Standards February 2017

² Source - The Solar Foundation / Solar Jobs Census 2017

³ Source - Basav Sen, How States Can Boost with Renewables with Benefits for All, Institute for Policy Studies, April 2017, 10 - 19.]

⁴ Source - "Natural Gas Prices Have Finally Started To Rise" Forbes 2017

The following support opening a docket in the City Council to establish rules regarding
a Renewable Portfolio Standard for The City of New Orleans:

<u>Logan Burke</u> Name	<u>Alliance for Affordable Energy</u> Organization
<u>Debra Campbell</u> Name	<u>A Community Voice</u> Organization
<u>Chuck Perkins</u> Name	<u>Cafe Istanbul / Owner</u> Organization
<u>Will Koren IV</u> Name	<u>Citizen's Climate Lobby New Orleans / Chapter Founder</u> Organization
<u>Rabbi Mendel Rivkin</u> Name	<u>Chabad of Louisiana</u> Organization
<u>Rev. Cory Sparks</u> Name	<u>Commission on Stewardship of the Environment of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference / Chair</u> Organization
<u>Keith Twitchell</u> Name	<u>Committee For a Better New Orleans / President</u> Organization
<u>Elizabeth Trotter</u> Name	<u>Community Church Unitarian Universalist's CommUUnity Justice Ministry / Chair</u> Organization
<u>Monique Harden</u> Name	<u>Deep South Center for Environmental Justice / Lawyer</u> Organization
<u>Trevor Bryan</u> Name	<u>Episcopal Community Church for Racial Reconciliation</u> Organization
<u>Jeffrey Cantin</u> Name	<u>Gulf States Renewable Energy Industry Association (GSREIA) / President</u> Organization
<u>Andrew Wiseman</u> Name	<u>Global Cultural Alliance (GLOCA)</u> Organization
<u>Andreanecia Morris</u> Name	<u>Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance / Housing NOLA</u> Organization
<u>Joyce Vansean</u> Name	<u>Indivisible NOLA / Steering Committee</u> Organization
<u>Reverend Gregory Manning</u> Name	<u>Justice and Beyond</u> Organization
<u>John Clark</u> Name	<u>La Terre Institute</u> Organization
<u>Bill Quigley</u> Name	<u>Lawyer</u> Organization
<u>Liz Shephard</u> Name	<u>LifeCity / CEO</u> Organization
<u>Arthur J. Johnson</u> Name	<u>Lower 9th Ward Center for Sustainable Engagement & Development (CSED) / CEO</u> Organization

The following support opening a docket in the City Council to establish rules regarding
a Renewable Portfolio Standard for The City of New Orleans:

Marion Freistadt / Lisa Herman

Name

Members of Touro Synagogue's Environmental Committee

Organization

Nancy Lally

Name

Member of Central Carrollton Neighborhood Association

Organization

Anita Zervigon-Hakes

Name

New Orleans Coalition / President

Organization

Jane Patton

Name

No Waste NOLA

Organization

Elizabeth Galante

Name

PosiGen / VP of Business Development

Organization

Happy Johnson

Name

Public Advocate

Organization

Pres Kabacoff

Name

Real Estate Professional

Organization

Grace Morris

Name

Sierra Club Delta Chapter / Conservation Organizer

Organization

Janice Long

Name

Step Up Louisiana

Organization

Maggie Clark

Name

Solar Energy Industries Association (SIEA) / State Affairs Senior Manager, Southeast

Organization

Howard Mielke

Name

Tulane University School of Medicine / Department of Pharmacology

Organization

Mark Nguyen

Name

VAYLA

Organization

Thad Culley

Name

Vote Solar / Regional Director

Organization

Janice Barnes

Name

Waggoner & Ball / PhD, AIA, LEED AP®, RELi AP / Principal

Organization

Casey DeMoss

Name

Writer, advocate, leader

Organization

Renate Heurich / Andy Kowalczyk

Name

350 New Orleans

Organization