



May 7, 2018

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

**To:** Chairman Phil Mendelson and Councilmember Mary Cheh

**RE:** One Hundred Percent Renewable Portfolio Standard Expansion Amendment Act of 2018

Chairman Mendelson and Councilmember Cheh,

The Sierra Club appreciates your leadership on climate and energy issues in the District, including your introduction of the “One Hundred Percent Renewable Portfolio Standard Expansion Amendment Act of 2018” (“100% RPS Bill”). As you know, the Sierra Club shares your goal of reaching 100% clean energy and delivering the tremendous associated economic, health, and environmental benefits to all of the District’s residents and businesses. We agree with Chairman Mendelson’s recent statement to us that 2040 might be an appropriate date by which to reach that target when it comes to electricity. We believe the proposed bill needs to be strengthened and paired with other strategies to reach those important goals, as outlined below. We stand ready to work with you and other stakeholders in the District to improve the proposed bill and continue the District’s leadership role in establishing equitable climate protection policies.

As has been clearly delineated by DOEE, and explored through the hard work of Councilmember Cheh’s staff and the members of the working group discussing potential climate policies for the District, we are falling behind both the District’s current goals and the level of pollution reductions needed to avoid the worst impacts of climate disruption. The Trump Administration’s plans to roll back critical protections like fuel economy standards further threatens the District’s plans. We suggest the following improvements to the bill in order to reflect that understanding:

- 1) The Council should accelerate reaching 100% clean electricity far sooner than 2050. The best research on what is necessary to avoid the worst impacts of climate disruption, for instance the *Beyond 2 Degree Scenario* from the International Energy Agency, shows that the United States and other developed countries need to move to 100% clean energy across the entire economy (not just electricity) by 2050. This necessitates a move to 100% clean electricity even sooner so that renewable electricity is able to power transportation and heating needs by 2050. The District’s policies should reflect this robust analysis.
- 2) The Council should limit eligible resources to within the area served by the District’s grid operator, PJM, rather than both PJM and adjacent states. The current

RPS allows resources from areas that are not actually “additional” from a climate or economic perspective.

- 3) The Council should specify a minimum percentage of RPS compliance that must be purchased on long-term contracts, creating tremendous cost savings for District residents over the lifetime of the policy.
- 4) The Council should simultaneously implement policies to reduce climate pollution from transportation and heating, including investment in electric buses, cars and heat pumps. While electricity is the largest source of pollution and the most important, we cannot reach the District’s targets without effective policies dealing with other major sources of pollution.
- 5) The Council should ensure that those families, individuals, and small businesses that cannot currently access more efficient or cleaner energy, transportation, or heating opportunities either have the ability to do so or do not face higher costs as a result of action. Those who are already struggling to get by should not be made worse off by our collective efforts.

As you have recognized by introducing a laudable bill to reach 100% renewable electricity, the Council needs to take action. We hope and trust that this proposal is a starting point. Final action by the Council must fully incorporate the need to accelerate progress, reduce pollution across multiple sectors, and ensure those most overburdened by pollution and underserved by economic opportunities have full and primary access to the benefits of a 100% clean energy economy.

Respectfully submitted,



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