

**Audubon Naturalist Society • Center for Biological Diversity • Chesapeake Climate Action Network
DC Climate Action • DC Consumer Utility Board • DC Environmental Network
DC Statehood Green Party • Friends Meeting of Washington Committee on Peace & Social Concerns
Friends of the Earth • Greentel Group • GRID2.0 • Institute for Market Transformation
League of Women Voters of DC • Moms Clean Air Force DC Chapter • Sierra Club DC Chapter
Solar United Neighbors • Uprise Electric • Wentworth Green Strategies**

Via Electronic Mail: vgray@dccouncil.us

October 4, 2021

Hon. Vincent Gray
Council of the District of Columbia, Ward 7
1350 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Suite 406
Washington, DC 20004

RE: Vote Yes on “Public Service Commission Member Qualifications Emergency Amendment Act of 2021”

We write to ask your support for the proposed “Public Service Commission Member Qualifications Emergency Amendment Act of 2021,” and the associated “Public Service Commission Member Qualifications Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2021.” The proposed Act would establish qualifications in experience for two of the three Commissioners of the Public Service Commission. One must have experience in electric grid modernization and renewable energy integration or technology, and the other must have experience in consumer protection.

As the former Mayor of our nation’s capital city, and as the creator of the District’s Sustainable DC Plan, you understand more than anyone else how important it is to empower the Public Service Commission and put in place the team that can effectively achieve the DC’s sustainability Plan’s mission and goals.

The District’s ambitious climate commitments, in particular the commitment to carbon neutrality by 2050, require a Commission with deep experience in grid modernization and promotion and integration of renewable energy into the grid. Furthermore, the continued success of the critical Solar for All program that has directly benefited so many residents of Ward 7 is at stake. At the same time, considering the costs and potential for disruption to consumers, the Commission must have expertise in consumer protection. The Commission needs these two areas of expertise to lead in achieving our rapid, equitable energy transition.

There is a highly qualified and diverse pool of potential candidates available to fill these positions.

The bill before the Council is designed as emergency legislation because one of the Commissioners, Chairman Willie Phillips, is likely to leave soon, leaving a gap to be filled. At the same time, a large volume of cases that will determine the success or failure of our energy transition is now pending before the Commission. Therefore, the very next Commissioner will be critical in determining the shape of the Commission’s rulings on those cases. This Commissioner must begin work already well-versed in the

issues and the state of the regulatory art in grid modernization and renewable energy. That is what the proposed legislation aims for.

Your vote may make the difference between this emergency legislation succeeding or failing. The cost of failure is simply too high. We strongly urge you to vote in favor.

Sincerely,

Dyana Forester
Ward 7 Resident

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Nina Dodge
DC Climate Action

Chris Weiss
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