

Subcommittee on Energy
Hearing on
“Clean Energy Infrastructure and the Workforce to Build It”
February 27, 2019

Ms. Anne Pramaggiore, Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer
Exelon Utilities

The Honorable Joseph P. Kennedy III (D-MA)

1. The transition to a green economy presents the U.S. with incredible workforce opportunity but also, of course, workforce disruption.
 - a. How should Congress be proactively thinking about support for workers, families, and communities that have depended on the fossil fuel industry for jobs and economic development for generations?

RESPONSE:

Over the next 20 years, the electric power industry will evolve to meet a future that requires decarbonization, demands enhanced consumer choice, and increases use of the power grid by more and more sectors of the economy. The power grid is essential to the future we envision, but will require transformation – the greatest transformation of this industry since its advent over 100 years ago. Accomplishing this transformation will require preparing our current workforce to meet these changing demands and cultivating a workforce of the future with skills and talents very different from our legacy workforce. This workforce challenge is especially urgent given the pace of technological change and the climate goals already adopted by many U.S. states and cities.

Two fortuitous features of this industry uniquely position its transformation to support workers and families dislocated by this transformation. First, the jobs that will be needed to redesign and reconstruct the power grid are well-paying, long-term and often can be filled by skilled and semi-skilled craft workers whose skills we have substantial experience in developing. Second, because the grid physically exists in every U.S. community, resultant

grid work will materialize in virtually all areas of the country. This sector of the economy does not exist as a geographic cluster like Silicon Valley or even a regionally-oriented sector like the auto industry. It sits in every U.S. town and village. The grid redesign should be thought of as akin to the highways system buildout in the 1950's – for its impact on the spatial orientation of society, for its function as foundational infrastructure, and for its impact on job creation. The transformation of the electric industry can be a pivot point for the core American workforce into the digital age.

The energy industry has a business imperative to help lead workforce development efforts in these fast-growing, good-paying fields, and to support programs that produce the next generation of workers.

- b. How do we ensure a 'just transition' for those communities and workers as well?

RESPONSE:

The Blue Collar to Green Collar Jobs Act is a major step forward in improving education and training for energy-related jobs in communities that have depended on the fossil fuel industry and will be a tremendous asset in increasing the pool of skilled and diverse workers that our utilities need. The availability of workforce development programs for the new energy economy is key to ensuring a just transition for those communities.

The Honorable Jeff Duncan (R-SC)

1. Ms. Pramaggiore - Nuclear energy like the Oconee nuclear plant in my district will help keep the energy transition for more renewables that we're seeing today affordable & reliable. Maintaining the reliability that exists today on 100% renewables will be very costly.
 - a. How is a 100% renewable approach to energy going to serve communities in scenarios where they can't afford it? Can an economically diverse workforce be achieved if the energy powering it is unaffordable? If so, how?

RESPONSE:

As the largest nuclear operator in the United States and the largest generator of low- and no-emissions power, Exelon believes that nuclear power plays an essential role in meeting our nation's goals of having a clean, affordable, and reliable energy system. Nuclear plants in the United States provide 100,000 high-paying jobs and account for 20% of our power generation and over 50% of the low- and no-emissions power in the country. In addition to its important role in clean energy and job creation, the commercial nuclear industry plays an enormous role globally, both by setting the most rigorous operating standards for nuclear plants across the world and by balancing U.S. interests against ceding leadership in the development of international nuclear programs to foreign countries.

H.R. 1315, the Blue Collar to Green Collar Jobs Act, will help to ensure we have a diverse workforce with the right skill sets to build this new energy future. The Act also prioritizes retraining of the workers dislocated by energy transformation. The legislation is a major step forward in improving education and training for energy-related jobs and will be a tremendous asset in increasing the pool of skilled and diverse workers that our utilities need. Exelon utilizes hundreds of contractors each year, many of which are small businesses, unable to support sophisticated training programs of their own, who will be the primary beneficiary of the programs established under the bill. The investments proposed in this bill will serve as a force multiplier, incenting others in the private and public sector to make these essential investments in creating the energy workforce of the future.

We are also aware of the policy drive in many states and great consumer interest in renewable energy. It is undeniable that significant grid modernization efforts over a number of years will be required to redesign a grid that will adapt fully to a dominantly-renewable system. The process of grid modernization will require a robust workforce and, in part, a

differently-skilled workforce. The buildout of this redesigned energy system is akin to the highway buildout of the 1950's in impact – changing the economic and spatial orientation of the U.S. – and scale – it will touch every corner of our country. The process of moving to clean energies must be well-considered and measured.