



CITY OF GILLETTE

Mayor's Office

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April 14, 2020

The Honorable Paul Tonko
2369 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David B. McKinley, P.E.
2239 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Accelerated Transition Challenges for Energy Communities

Dear Chairman Tonko and Ranking Member McKinley,

We understand that the Subcommittee on Environment & Climate Change is holding a hearing regarding The CLEAN Future Act and its potential impacts. On behalf of a community that proudly bills itself as the “Energy Capital of the Nation”, I wanted to share a few considerations from our City regarding the accelerated transition to a decarbonized power sector.

Located in the heart of the Powder River Basin, containing significant deposits of coal, oil, gas and uranium, the City of Gillette has a vested interest in the continued use of our region’s abundant natural resources. For decades, our residents have quite literally been on the front lines of powering the country. Our municipal revenue and subsequent governmental operations are largely dependent on these industries.

We recognize that the global demand for energy is changing. We have worked hard to forge partnerships with other local, state and private entities, all dedicated to both expanding and diversifying our local economy. We are also acutely aware that these major changes do not occur overnight or without significant financial resources.

As is true for any other elected body, our primary goal at the City of Gillette is to preserve and improve quality of life for those that we represent. Aggressive goals for the quickly decreased use of fossil fuels will directly result in the loss of revenue, jobs, and wellbeing for the citizens of our community and many others like it. While we understand the desire to transition to a carbon-neutral energy matrix, we believe a measured, thoughtful approach is prudent and necessary.

We are actively working with other public and private entities to not only work toward reducing carbon emissions, but also to identify new uses for carbon. Partnerships with local utilities, the XPRIZE Foundation, the University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources and the U.S.

Department of Energy have spurred research into uses of the carbon created from energy production, as well as finding value-added products created from our abundant fossil fuels. We will need the continued support of the federal government to see these projects come to fruition for the benefit of everyone in our nation.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this perspective and for your important work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Louise Carter-King". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L' and a long, sweeping underline.

Mayor Louise Carter-King