DRAFT 1. Sept 3, 2021, 2PM- 2:30PM Lobby visit (virtual) with Miranda Peterson, Rep. Pallone’s District 6 staff member in Washington: [Miranda.Peterson@mail.house.gov](mailto:Miranda.Peterson@mail.house.gov) Work Cell Phone: (202) 849-0666

ATTENDANCE: approx. 11 plus Miranda (5 speakers: Carol Van Kirk (Middletown, NJ Dist 6), Steve Miller (Middletown, NJ Dist 4), Bob Erickson (Middletown, NJ Dist 4), Jeffrey Davis (Marlboro, NJ Dist 6), Pat Miller (Middletown, NJ Dist 4), attendees: Maggie Barbero (Matawan, NJ Dist 6), Bill Silverman (Marlboro, NJ Dist 6), Rosa Nicks (Plainfield, NJ Dist 12), Barnett Press (Minneapolis, MN), Rikki Shook (CT), LaCassa DuMarce (MN) NOTE: some remote tel #s could be cell phones used locally

MIRANDA’s COMMENTS:

Clean Future act (Pallone’s main piece of legislation) – under House Energy & Commerce Committee.   
-- Much of his bill has to go thru “regular order”   
– cannot create new gov program or new regulation through budget reconciliation.

Rep Pallone is taking exciting pieces from Clean Future act thru parliamentary office into BUILD BACK BETTER ACT to create new solutions, while cutting emissions and building jobs. Now looking at scope to see what is possible and continue to keep the Democratic caucus. Hope by end of month to have a bipartisan deal [paired with the “Build Back Better Act”]. (Although there are parts of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Rep Pallone would love to change, there are good things in it- esp cutting emissions in the transportation sector). Rep Pallone has been working on reinstating the Superfund tax, paid by the polluters (working for this since expiration since mid 90s) to include brownfields, and lead pipe replacement. Pallone is member of the Progressive Caucus.

Yesterday: Senator Manchin (WV), wrote in Wall Street Journal about $ 3.5 spending thru reconciliation: Manchin wrote that he will not support congress quickly rushing thru. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/manchin-pelosi-biden-3-5-trillion-reconciliation-government-spending-debt-deficit-inflation-11630605657> At this point, still too early to tell what will and not be in the Build Back Better Act! New EPA administrator last week visited Rep. Pallone’s district.

Jeffrey Davis suggested a follow-up in two weeks. Miranda said she welcomes contact, including email. Call office, or email. If send letter or email to an office in the Pallone District, it will be read by district staff, and sent to appropriate Washington staff, such as Miranda.

SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION immediately after the meeting: Bob commented that today’s NYTimes showed Pres. Biden talk about “resiliency”. Then Gov Murphy , in Milburn, NJ, also used the word “resiliency”. Carbon reduction, global warming, … were not discussed by either. Everything we are doing could be repackaged as resiliency, IFF we hear it from Democratic leaders. Let others contribute sections on sea walls, etc, and we could contribute on Climate Change.

Today, Miranda did not say “resiliency” to encourage paying for the damage. It is significant that PREVENTION COULD BE CALLED RESILIENCY.

STEVE: TODO:

* 1. Write a thank you to Miranda for being candid on prospects. Circulate to speakers for comments. Attach the 3-page Sierra Club GO BOLD brochure (stored in climate/50x30 folder). Also, let Miranda know that Maggie was on call on phone and could not unmute.
  2. Circulate these meeting notes for comments speakers. Circulate a shorter version to broad audience to attract additional members to “50 x 30Team”

REGISTERED (not all attended): local NJ residents: (732 and 908 area code tel #s)

Maggie S. Barbero, Matawan, Magwheels 123 [margaret.barbero@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.barbero@gmail.com), (Pallone District)- contacted Miranda

Steve Miller stevemiller@comcast.net 732-671-5917

Lois Avrin loisavrin@aol.com 732-895-5718

Rosa Nicks simplydivine07090@yahoo.com 908-296-4960

Tom Emerson thomas.emerson@verizon.net 732-546-6145

Jeffrey Davis jeffrey.davis2@gmail.com 908-770-3145

William Silverman wmagman@optonline.net 732-972-2728

Rey Watson reymwatson@gmail.com 908-332-3424

James Cherry yesnomaybeso245@gmail.com 908-367-3089

Pat Miller patmiller@comcast.net 732-859-3143

Carol Van Kirk DrCarolVK2@msn.com 732-345-0964

Robert Erickson rerick987@gmail.com 732-337-4380

Kaori Sanada michiru.tennoh1@gmail.com 609-756-9232 OCEAN COUNTY

REGISTERED (not all attended). Phone #s are distant (Some tel numbers could be cell phones used locally!)

LaCassa DuMarce cassadumarce15@gmail.com 763-297-0299 MN

John Dannenbaum Dannenbaum5@aol.com 805-702-5943 CA

Cristi Moreland Moreland.cristi@comcast.net 304-676-3364 WV

Roberta Hill onirishhill@gmail.com 207-333-1849 Maine

Rikki Shook eshook@unc.edu 203-885-6527 CT

Jermarrio Eddie jeddie@michigandems.com 269-999-0579 MI

BARNETT PRESS pressbart@gmail.com 952-221-5569

**SPEAKERS** (in order):

Carol Van Kirk (moderator) Middletown, drcarolvk2@msn.com (Pallone District)

Steve Miller, Middletown [stevemiller@comcast.net](mailto:stevemiller@comcast.net) 732-977-4370 (cell)

Bob Erickson, Middletown rerick987@gmail.com

Jeffrey Davis, Marlboro [jeffrey.davis2@gmail.com](mailto:jeffrey.davis2@gmail.com), (H) 732-536-7710 (Pallone District)

Pat Miller, Middletown [patmiller@comcast.net](mailto:patmiller@comcast.net) 732-859-314

**WRITTEN DOCUMENTS FOLLOW (emailed to Miranda on Sept 2)**

**(the following include some of the script changes on day of the event)**

**CAROL VAN KIRK**

Thank you for meeting with us. My name is Carol Van Kirk and I will serve as the moderator for this call.

First, we want thank Representative Pallone for the two years it took for subcommittees to perfect the "Clean Future Act", released on March 5, which states the goal is 50% Green House Gas reduction by 2030, and NetZero by 2050. We are fully on-board in supporting this work. Our speakers today will recommend enhancements on that framework.

I’d like to recognize some constituents on this Zoom call:

I am a constituent from Middletown.

Thank you Maggie Barbero, a constituent from Matawan, for making the initial contact to set up this meeting.

We have two constituents from Marlboro: Jeffrey Davis, who you will hear from today, and Bill Silverman.

We have several people speaking today who reside in Middletown and who are members of various climate-related organizations, including Climate Reality Project, NJ Chapter; Sierra Club; Middletown for Clean Energy; Middletown Green Team; and Marlboro Green Team

We’ll begin with Steve Miller.

**STEVE MILLER**

Miranda, you probably don’t know I was a listener on the zoom call with you 2 months ago, with the Climate Reality Project. I am a resident of Middletown, NJ and an officer or principal in several environmental organizations

On Aug 9, 2021, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a STRONG call to action. Congress has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to shape our society and economy. Concentrating only on the two largest areas of emission reduction (transportation & electricity) will quickly get us close to 50% reduction by 2030, on a path to NetZero by 2050.

Today, I focus on the 3rd largest area of emission reduction: begin to electrify the current use of fossil fuels for space & water heating, and appliances in existing residence, commercial & industrial buildings. This will get us further ahead on our path to NetZero.

MY ASK: Use incentives to achieve the greatest GHG reductions. Energy efficiency incentives to insulate and seal is 1st priority. Space and water heating need incentives to SWITCH to clean electric heatpumps, and we should be phasing OUT fossil fuel incentives. Phase OUT incentives for fossil fuel furnace upgrades, and phase out incentives for air conditioner direct replacements. Provide high incentives to replace air conditioners with heatpumps (provide higher incentives for installation of “Cold Weather” heatpumps in northern climates). Provide incentives for PARTIAL upgrades (an air-source heatpump replaces an air conditioner AND partially/mostly replaces a furnace (discussed in a few seconds). Remove any (non-safety) restrictions which requires the original furnace to be retired or removed. Begin incentives for electrical panel upgrades to handle these, and future electrification needs, such as EV chargers.

RATIONALE: Existing building stock will be here for decades. Fossil fueled space & water heaters, and appliances are continually wearing out and being replaced. We can use “Hope for Homes” (in “Clean Future Act”) to not only reward energy reductions, but also bring strong focus on GHG reductions for all businesses and residences. Heatpump technology will improve with incentives from the Budget Reconciliation Act. We can use the rapidly improving technology in heatpumps to replace broken central air conditioners. We can re-use existing furnace assemblies like multi-speed circulation fans and pumps, and existing ducts. After improvements in building energy efficiency, in southern climates the replacement heatpump will provide ALL the winter heat as well as Air Conditioning. In northern climates, the fossil fuel furnace, if left in place, can automatically switch ON to provide heat only during exceptionally cold periods. As heatpump technology improves over the next decades, and as building energy efficiency increases, the need for supplementary fossil fuel furnaces will disappear.

I ask that my requests be included in the Budget Reconciliation Act. Thank you for your time! **THESE** **LEGISLATION ASK**S are to

Chairman Frank Pallone, House Committee on Energy and Commerce;

Chairman, Bobby Rush, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, within the House Committee on Energy and Commerce;

Chairman, Paul Tonko, Chair, Subcommittee on Energy, within Environment and Climate Change

Steven G. Miller, Middletown, 151 Borden Rd., Middletown, NJ 07748 732-977-4370 (cell)

Co-founder Middletown for Clean Energy

Co-founder “50 x 30 Team”

Co-Leader UUCMC Climate Action Team,

Climate Chair, NJ Sierra Club Shore Group

Trained Climate Reality Leader

Our next speaker, is Bob Erickson, who is the lead author for the Middletown Energy Plan, which describes a path for Middletown to reach 50% by 2030 and Netzero by 2050. We are pleased this Energy Plan is being considered later this year for integration into the Middletown Master Plan.

**BOB ERICKSON**

Hi, I am Robert Erickson of Middletown, NJ. I have been working with Middletown for Clean Energy.

* **We are asking if certain recommendations[[1]](#footnote-1) sent in a prior letter to Congressional committees regarding the Clean Future Act[[2]](#footnote-2) will be included in the upcoming Budget Reconciliation Act.**
* **The recommendations relate to certain carbon reduction scenarios in the proposed Middletown Energy Plan V2[[3]](#footnote-3).**
* **It is estimated that up to 83% or more of Middletown’s carbon emissions would be saved by 2050 (and 38% by 2030) if the recommendations are implemented in the Budget Reconciliation Act.**

1. **Will the Budget Reconciliation Act include a specific written objective for 100% clean electricity by 2035?** President Biden’s 1/27/21 executive order[[4]](#footnote-4) indicated to develop a plan for “a carbon pollution-free electricity sector no later than 2035.” Further example wording can be found in the Off Fossil Fuels Act[[5]](#footnote-5).
2. **Will the Budget Reconciliation Act include a specific written objective and incentives for 100% Zero Emission Vehicle sales by 2035?** House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis[[6]](#footnote-6) report of June 2020 seeks to “[enact] a national sales standard to achieve 100% sales of zero emission cars by 2035 and heavy-duty trucks by 2040.” Further example wording can be found in the Off Fossil Fuels Act[[7]](#footnote-7). Further question: Would this include substantial incentives and objectives for electrification of (or zero emission) passenger vehicles, light trucks, medium & heavy trucks, state and local government vehicle fleets, school buses, transit buses, package delivery vehicles, ride share vehicles, refuse trucks and port electrification? Vehicle electrification will also substantially improve air quality.
3. **Will the Budget Reconciliation Act include a specific written objective and incentives for 100% building electrification by 2050, including mandating conversion to electric heat pumps[[8]](#footnote-8) [[9]](#footnote-9)?** Further question: Would this also include (a) emphasis on conversion to “cold climate” heat pumps where applicable (b) building codes for all-electric buildings both new and retrofit (c) phaseout of combustion-based building technologies including a moratorium on new gas hookups and gas conversions, and (d) support for replacement of fossil fuel based appliances with electric appliances such as electric heat pump dryers and heat pump water heaters?
4. **Will the Budget Reconciliation Act include strong rules, requirements, and renewable portfolio standards that require PJM type electric pools to quickly obtain a vast increase in renewable electricity[[10]](#footnote-10)?**  The PJM Interconnections electric pool (consisting of NJ and other states) currently generates only 6% of its power from solar and wind. Example requirements might include: (a) setting Renewable Portfoliio Standards that all power pools must individually meet to insure 100% clean electric by 2035 (b) permanently forbidding any entity from setting minimum prices for renewable solar or wind, or setting minimum prices that exceed the lowest price of any fossil fuel for electricity generated.  
   (Note: This recommendation is beyond the previously mentioned recommendation letter)
5. **Will the Budget Reconciliation Act include carbon emission fees such as those in the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act[[11]](#footnote-11)?** There are 81 congressional co-sponsors of the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. Carbon emission fees support all the primary carbon emission reduction scenarios called for in the Middletown Energy Plan V2.

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| Robert Erickson, Middletown, NJ  Member of Middletown for Clean Energy  Key analyst/author for the proposed Middletown Energy Plan V2  [rerick987@gmail.com](mailto:rerick987@gmail.com) 732-337-4380 |  |

**JEFFREY DAVIS, MARLBORO**

Script for Congressman Pallone (staffer) Lobby Meeting 9-3-21, 2PM.

From Jeffrey Davis, [jeffrey.davis2@gmail.com](mailto:jeffrey.davis2@gmail.com), (H) 732-536-7710 (leave message)

[Note to Miranda (and Congressman Pallone): My presentation will be shorter than the written contents for brevity sake. Additionally, please see the fifth ask at the end of this document involving tech jobs.]

Hello Miranda,

Hi, my name is Jeffrey Davis and I live in Marlboro, NJ, in Congressman Pallone’s district. I am a centrist Democrat – but who recognizes that the time to aggressively combat climate change is long overdue.

My perspective focuses on **sustaining** climate change mitigation over the long-term, including winning (and keeping) public support.

* I also subscribe to bipartisanship as supported by NoLabels and the Problem Solvers Caucus, as I believe that bipartisanship is important for long-term solutions.
* [Not stated during the presentation; but the Senate filibuster needs to be modified as it has evolved to be a tool for obstruction! Neither do I believe that Republican obstructionism should be allowed to stand.]

One dimension where bipartisanship adds value in climate change action is for sustaining the movement as new Congresses and administrations are elected over the short- and longer-term political cycles with the potential for flipping the majority.

* Otherwise, without bipartisan support, climate action proponents risk losing gains to be made during the current administration and Congressional term.
* We are aware that Congressman Pallone has developed the Clean Future Act within his committee, with input from Democrats and Republicans, making him one of the leading proponents of climate change mitigation in Congress.

My first ask is: **Does Congressman Pallone believe that climate change actions and legislation has a chance for solid bipartisanship support**?

[Omitted from the verbal presentation:

Incidentally, I wanted to thank the Congressman for his terrific discussion with Rutgers political science professor Ross Baker’s class on October 7th of 2020 – I was an attendee as a senior citizen auditing that class.

* I asked the Congressman about his view of NoLabels, as I believe bipartisanship is important. At the time, the Congressman did not believe that the group was effective. But since December, perhaps his view may have shifted, a little. NoLabels has become a key political face of Congressional bipartisanship.]

**My second ask involves battling climate change over time -- it is not just technical issues, but public relations and sound communications that could make or break successful climate change mitigation.**

* [Not stated during the presentation: these were sub-optimal during the ACA evolution/rollout under President Obama).

The Energy and Commerce Committee, as a likely oversight body for climate change action, needs to also keep in mind that problems will arise in implementing climate change programs and projects. **Will the Congressman be able to steer the committee to maintain climate change mitigation momentum via its oversight role, even when implementation problems arise? How might this be accomplished**?

My third ask focuses on one point that conservative commentators and politicians have stated: **Some fossil fuel electricity will be needed even as more clean energy is brought on line (and even through and beyond 2050)**.

Paraphrasing, what level of fossil fuel electricity will be needed over the next 5/10/20+ years. Why is this a significant issue – addressing it **shows the public** that climate change mitigation is being conducted by thoughtful leaders who govern above politics.

**My fourth ask involves using some creative legislation and (tax) incentives to motivate the public to reduce their GHG footprint. One such approach is Family Miles Per Gallon (FMPG). If the Congressman is interested, this could be discussed offline.**

**[Note: following points will be bypassed in the verbal presentation.**

1. FMPG looks at the total family miles driven. Essentially, the (larger) vehicle is used to drive the kids is counterbalanced by an EV (or some high MPG vehicle) for commuting to work by the other spouse. This could be managed via federal tax filings. (Income level could be a trigger point consideration. Potentially, adaptation to one car families would be needed.)
2. The FMPG concept is geared towards suburban and rural families – but these are the folks that drive the most.
3. Essentially, use FMPG to wean families into EV vehicles. Incentives would likely still be needed.
4. Ultimately, even these larger (low MPG) vehicles need to be eventually converted to EVs; therefore, FMPG would be structured to phase down/out in a few years.
5. One other automobile viewpoint: Car rental companies need to be structured to shift to EVs as well, but this is dependent on adequate charging station availability (and would also benefit from coordination with hotel chains).]

Thank you for listening to my viewpoints.

[Should you wish additional input, I can be reached via email at [Jeffrey.davis2@gmail.com](mailto:Jeffrey.davis2@gmail.com) or by phone at 732-536-7710 (please leave a message and I will call back).]

Jeffrey Davis,

Member of the Marlboro Green Team

Member of the 50 x 30 Team

Trained Climate Reality Leader (July 2020)

(Retired) Project Manager

MBA (1977) New York University

[Not covered during the presentation due to time constraints, but an area critical for Congress to address:

**My fifth and final ask involves transitioning fossil fuel workers into green energy jobs**. This is of course critical for obtaining broad (bipartisan) support of climate change actions – both from the public and from legislators in fossil fuel energy states. Legislation should aggressively support this. Congress understands this. BUT, …

**There may not be enough green jobs to absorb the fossil fuel industry workers**!

* **Therefore, though not a direct component of climate change action, Congress should examine and enact legislation to facilitate (mostly non-college) Americans getting trained for high tech (specifically, software engineering).**
  + Training non-college graduates is already being done (an example is a company named, Catalyte - <https://www.catalyte.io/>; the company was featured in a 60 Minutes segment on 7/7/19.)
  + **Training scale-up is needed**.
* Also involving high-tech jobs, **Congress should re-examine the H1B visa program.** Foreign H1B personnel should be offset with US-based-trained resources. We have been allowing companies (US and foreign) to get away with not training US citizens (not usually associated with tech) for too long.
  + Essentially, for every H1B asset brought in to the United States (and even foreign resources used remotely), using companies should be required to train and utilize a US citizen for high tech within a fixed time period (e.g., 12-24 months).]

**PAT MILLER, MIDDLETOWN** [**patmiller@comcast.net**](mailto:patmiller@comcast.net) **732-859-3143 (cell)**

I am Pat Miller from Middletown, NJ. I am a Climate Reality Leader, co-founder of Middletown for Clean Energy (with my husband Steve, who spoke earlier) and member of Sierra Club and Middletown Green Team.

My interest in the Budget Reconciliation bill is that the climate action it includes be big enough and bold enough to set us on a path IMMEDIATELY to lower GHG emissions and reach 100% clean energy – as quickly as possible and within the time frame that the IPCC says we must meet if we are to preserve a livable world for our children and grandchildren. My highest priority is just to see this bill pass with the strongest possible climate provisions, and that it NOT be pared down or derailed by fossil fuel or other corporate interests.

We know that there are 3 steps that are essential to lowering emissions. 1) electrifying transportation, whether personal cars and trucks, heavy duty trucks, or buses and trains; 2) electrifying space heating and appliances for both existing and new buildings, while substantially improving their efficiency; and 3) enabling 100% clean electricity from local sources such as wind and solar, and upgrading the grid for reliability, heavier use, and smart bidirectionality.

We need the Reconciliation bill to make this happen. We know this package will create jobs and stimulate the economy. An additional consideration is that every opportunity should be taken to relieve overburdened individuals and communities. Examples might be closing down or replacing dirty power plants or incinerators in these neighborhoods, port electrification, incentivizing building efficiency or electrification projects, or creating local job opportunities and training for workers transitioning to a low-carbon economy.

Finally, we would like to ask Rep. Pallone include additional funding for lead pipe replacement in the budget reconciliation package. The House Energy and Commerce Committee, which Rep. Pallone chairs, has jurisdiction over this issue for the budget reconciliation bill.

 The ask: The current infrastructure budget would leave 3 of 4 lead pipes intact. As chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee will Rep. Pallone commit to funding 100% of lead pipe removal?

Pat Miller from Middletown, NJ

Climate Reality Leader

co-founder of Middletown for Clean Energy (with my husband Steve, who spoke earlier)

member of Sierra Club

Member of Middletown Green Team

1. 5/25/21 letter conveying recommendations for Clean Future Act to Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr., Chairman, House Committee on Energy and Commerce; Congressman Bobby L Rush, Chairman, House SubCommittee on Energy; Congressman Paul Tonko; Chairman, House SubCommittee on Environment & Climate [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1512 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <http://climate.smiller.org/energy-plan/Middletown-2020-Energy-Plan/MiddletownEnergyPlan-V2-2020-8-8.pdf>

   The Middletown Energy Plan is currently under review for inclusion in the 2021 update of the Middletown Master Plan. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/27/executive-order-on-tackling-the-climate-crisis-at-home-and-abroad/ [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/3671/text

   Off Fossil Fuels Act: **“**SEC. 201. CLEAN ENERGY MANDATES.

   (a) Minimum Annual Percentage. —The minimum annual percentage of the quantity of electricity sold by a retail electric supplier that must be generated from clean energy resources shall be—(1) in 2027, 80 percent; and (2) in 2035, and every year following, 100 percent.” [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. https://climatecrisis.house.gov/sites/climatecrisis.house.gov/files/Climate%20Crisis%20Action%20Plan.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/3671/text>

   Off Fossil Fuels Act: SEC. 220. ZERO-EMISSION VEHICLE MANDATE.

   “(a)In General. —The minimum annual percentage of the quantity of new motor vehicle sales of a vehicle manufacturer that shall be zero-emission vehicles shall be—(1) in 2027, 80 percent; and (2) in 2035, and every year following, 100 percent. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Accelerating America’s Pledge page 2 extract: “Phasing Out Gas Heating in Favor of Cost-Effective Electric Heat Pumps”. https://www.bbhub.io/dotorg/sites/28/2019/12/Accelerating-Americas-Pledge.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. 2019 New Jersey Energy Master Plan page 136 extract: “In the Least Cost and other scenarios with high uptake of heat pumps, the Integrated Energy Plan does not model significant efficiency investment in fossil-fueled heating equipment, as the majority of such equipment is gradually replaced with heat pumps by 2050…..” http://d31hzlhk6di2h5.cloudfront.net/20200127/84/84/03/b2/2293766d081ff4a3cd8e60aa/NJBPU\_EMP.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. PJM Interconnections, Inc. includes NJ among 13 states. Further reference: “The Biggest U.S. Electrical Grid Braces for Green Energy” (8/10/21) <https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/the-biggest-u-s-electrical-grid-braces-for-green-energy-1.1638652> Including: “[the PJM] gets only 6% of its power from renewable sources such as wind and solar, compared with more than 40% in California and more than 25% in Texas” [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. <https://energyinnovationact.org/> [↑](#footnote-ref-11)