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Support for Senate Bill 33, Renewable Portfolio Standards

The bill before us today requires that 40% of our energy be produced by renewable sources by 2035. Because we face the existential threat of climate change; because Delaware has the lowest average elevation of any state and is subject to one of the most pressing effects of climate change, sea level rise; because the pollution associated with carbon dioxide emissions causes most harm to our most vulnerable; because green industry will provide badly needed jobs; and because President-Elect Biden is calling for 100% of our energy to be generated by renewable sources by 2050, the League of Women Voters supports an RPS of *at least* 50% by 2035.

The price of renewable energy is now quite competitive with the price of fossil fuels. But if you add to the fossil fuel costs the cost of externalities such as healthcare costs and damage to the environment, then the cost comparison comes down solidly in favor of renewables. When you factor in the cost of fossil fuel subsidies, the price of externalities creeps even higher. The Environmental and Energy Study Institute estimates conservatively that direct subsidies to the fossil fuel industry amount to about \$20 billion per year, or about \$61 each for every man, woman, and child in the U.S.

The League of Women Voters of Delaware urges support of SB 33, with an amendment that includes *at least* 50% renewables.

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