

My name is Mitch Chanin, and I'm a member of POWER and Philly Thrive, as well as other local organizations. I've lived in NE Philly for most of my life. Thanks for the opportunity to testify today.

The crises we face here in Philly are interconnected. The threat of climate catastrophe, deep poverty, unaffordable energy bills, home disrepair, and widespread asthma are all related. To solve them, we need to transform PGW and our wider energy system as well as our buildings.

The draft materials are a good--though limited--step toward figuring out how to do that. I'm encouraged to see the materials confirm that building electrification is essential, and that they begin exploring possibilities for networked geothermal systems. But much more is needed.

For example, the draft materials say little about options for repairing buildings and making them more energy efficient. We'd like to see the completed report address those possibilities in more depth. A bold, ambitious repair/retrofit program would improve residents' health, make our homes more comfortable and resilient, bring down our bills, create good jobs, and reduce displacement. It would also limit the cost of the new equipment and infrastructure that will be needed as we decarbonize.

I hope the study will kick off a fully participatory, community-based planning process over the coming months, so we can create the bold plans we need.

I urge the PGW and the City to undertake a pilot project that involves installing networked geothermal systems as well as home repairs and retrofits. At the same time, while we plan the future of PGW, I ask Gas Commissioners to take action to stop PGW from using our ratepayer dollars to lobby against policies that we'll need to achieve the goals we're discussing. You'll hear more about that from colleagues this morning.

Thank you.