



CITY OF GILLETTE

Mayor's Office

201 E. 5th Street • Gillette, Wyoming 82716
Phone 307.686.5203 • Fax 307.686.1593
www.gillettewy.gov

Written Testimony for Mayor Louise Carter-King, City of Gillette, Wyoming

**Before the Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy
United States House of Representatives
Hearing entitled “Generating Equity: Deploying a Just and Clean Energy Future”**

April 20, 2021

Chairman Rush, Ranking Member Upton and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to allow me to speak. I am here today as the non-partisan, elected at-large, Mayor of the City of Gillette, Wyoming. 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 transition to a decarbonized power sector.

Located in the heart of the Powder River Basin, containing significant deposits of coal, oil, gas and uranium, our community 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. The loss of this revenue will have an immediate and direct impact on the public safety of our residents, from the officers that we have on the street to the doctors and nurses we have in our hospital, not to mention what it will do to our education system, which is already facing steep cuts.

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 the 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 private entities and government at all levels to see these projects come to fruition for the benefit of everyone in our nation.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to share this perspective and for your important work.