

PERRY COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
Office of the Board of Supervisors
P.O. Box 345
New Augusta, MS 39462
(6501) 964-7878

Via E-Mail

September 15, 2021

Executive Director
U.S. Department of Energy, Loan Programs Office
Attn: Renewable Energy Projects and Efficient Energy Projects Applications
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

RE: Hy Stor Energy LP Project

Dear Director:

We write in support of the loan guarantee application that is being submitted to your office by Hy Stor Energy LP (“Hy Stor Energy”). In our role as the Board of Supervisors for Perry County, we represent the interests of our citizens. We believe our citizens will benefit tremendously from the production, storage, and use of green hydrogen through Hy Stor Energy’s innovative project by providing clean energy and a number of well-paying jobs for our community.

As the Department is well-aware, hydrogen, particularly green hydrogen, has not been commercialized to a broad scale yet, and Hy Stor Energy’s proposed project would substantially advance efforts to expand and reduce the cost of hydrogen production. The Hy Stor Energy project can lead the way toward achieving the President’s stated goals of cutting carbon emissions by half by 2030 and achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. Green hydrogen is essential to meeting these goals by serving as an important complement to wind and solar electric generation sources, while offering greater reliability. Hy Stor’s project would produce, store, and deploy hydrogen in an entirely decarbonized process that would directly benefit our region and serve as a helpful model for how to commercialize green hydrogen in other parts of the county. Our community is the perfect partner to help assist Hy Stor Energy in these efforts.

Producing green hydrogen through electrolysis requires an ample supply of solar energy and other renewable energy sources such as wind, and our state and local community has the capacity to support the development of those resources. Storage of the hydrogen is another important consideration, and we are fortunate to have large salt domes well-suited for underground salt cavern storage for this purpose. In fact, Hy Stor Energy has already received Special Field Rules from the Mississippi State Oil and Gas Board authorizing the development and use of some of these domes for hydrogen storage. Our region also has an extensive infrastructure in place to transport and distribute hydrogen, which includes proximity to the Mississippi River and offshore ports as well as highways, railways, and fuel pipelines to help with transmission.

We stand ready to assist Hy Stor Energy because the proposed hydrogen hub offers critical benefits to our region. Ours is a diverse community and the prospect of developing clean, reliable, and affordable green hydrogen would aid our growth and the well-being of our citizens. As part of his Justice40 Initiative, the President has pledged to allocate at least 40% of climate investments to disadvantaged communities. There is no area more in need of these investments than the State of Mississippi, which has the highest percentage of African-Americans of any state in the country.

The economic benefits from making our area a hydrogen hub are sorely needed as well. Mississippi has the lowest per capita income of any state in the country, and the jobs associated with the construction of the Hy Stor Energy hydrogen production and storage hub, as well as the long-term jobs that will be created both during construction and after the hub becomes operational, will provide an enormous economic boost to our community. Simply put, this project will be a game changer for our region.

We have gotten to know the principals behind Hy Stor Energy through working with them on their plans to turn our area into a hydrogen hub. We have the utmost confidence that the company, led by CEO Laura Luce, will succeed if the Department provides it with a loan guarantee. Laura has an impressive background and the operational expertise and familiarity with underground storage development in Mississippi to make this project successful. She has recruited and assembled an impressive team that has developed a comprehensive plan for this venture. Therefore, it is not surprising that the company has received significant financial backing and commitments from Connor, Clark & Lunn and has already obtained (or is on track to obtain) the regulatory permits from state and local authorities necessary to proceed with this project. A loan guarantee from the Department would help ensure these efforts are successful and transform our area into a shining example of the future of clean energy in this country.

Please let us know if you have any questions or if we could provide any additional information that would aid in your consideration.

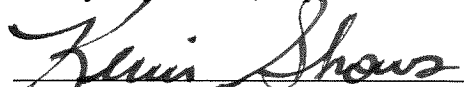
Respectfully submitted,



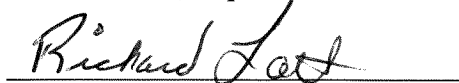
Tim Wise, Board President



Bobby Ray Bolton, Supervisor



Kevin Shows, Supervisor



Richard Lott, Supervisor



Marc Williams, Supervisor