



Electric School Buses: The Opportunity for New Jersey

Roundtable Discussion

With Introductory remarks from
New Jersey First Lady, Tammy Murphy



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Electrification
Coalition

Speaker Bios

New Jersey Electric School Bus Roundtable

October 13, 2021

Speaker	Bio
First Lady Tammy Murphy 	<p>During the campaign, transition, and now as First Lady, Tammy has been energized and inspired traveling the state and meeting New Jerseyans to hear their concerns, utilizing her experience in the private and nonprofit sectors to work through policy ideas and solutions.</p> <p>Over the years, Tammy has worked with non-profits, a think-tank, and other organizations focused on the environment, education, health care, youth and family services, as well as the arts and trans-Atlantic relations. As First Lady, Tammy's policy initiatives focus on infant and maternal health, climate change education, and fostering women-owned businesses throughout New Jersey. She has worked to create Family Festivals across the state to increase access to resources for mothers, children, and families; worked with the New Jersey Department of Education to incorporate climate change throughout the K-12 state education guidelines to better prepare our students for the future economy; and partnered with the New Jersey Economic Development Authority to increase angel investing in women-led businesses. She continues to be a partner to Phil as he works with Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver to tackle the formidable challenges facing New Jersey and its incredible residents.</p>

Congressman Frank Pallone Jr.



Frank Pallone, Jr. was sworn in for his 17th full term in the U.S. House of Representatives on January 3, 2021. Pallone represents New Jersey's Sixth Congressional District, which includes most of Middlesex County as well as the Bayshore and oceanfront areas of Monmouth County. Pallone is the Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has one of the broadest jurisdictions of any congressional committee.

He has served as Chairman since the beginning of the 116th Congress in 2019 and before that he served as the Committee's Ranking Member in the 114th and 115th Congresses. The Committee's jurisdiction includes issues pertaining to health care, energy, environment, commerce, food and drug safety, consumer protection, telecommunications, and the internet. Pallone has held a seat on the Committee since 1993. He successfully pushed through historic legislation that was signed into law that will help combat climate change by phasing down the production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons and mandating the repair of methane leaks. He also advanced the fight against climate change with a plan to achieve a 100% clean economy by 2050.

Pallone married his wife Sarah in 1992. They have three children: Rose, Frank, and Celeste.

Senator Patrick J. Diegnan Jr.



Senator Diegnan joined the Senate May 9, 2016, and previously served eight terms in the General Assembly. He is a former Deputy Speaker and Parliamentarian of the General Assembly, a former Chairman of the Assembly Higher Education Committee, and a former Chairman of the Assembly Education Committee. He currently chairs the Senate Transportation Committee, serves on the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee, and serves on the Senate Select Committee on NJ TRANSIT.

Senator Diegnan graduated from Seton Hall University in 1970, earned a juris doctorate at Seton Hall Law School in 1973, and was admitted to the New Jersey bar in 1974. He has a private law practice in South Plainfield.

The youngest of seven children, Senator Diegnan was born to parents who emigrated from Ireland in the late 1920s and who experienced the Great Depression firsthand. All of the Diegnan children learned the value of hard work, family and faith from their parents. Senator Diegnan and his wife, Anita, to whom he has been wed for 44 years, are the proud parents and grandparents.

Melissa Miles
Executive Director
New Jersey
Environmental Justice
Alliance



Melissa Miles (she/her) is an Environmental and Climate Justice advocate who began her career in the field as a grassroots activist and community organizer while living in an Environmental Justice community in Newark, New Jersey. She holds an MA in Anthropology from The New School but maintains that her expertise in EJ is rooted in her lived experience and her commitment to making sure that people at the frontlines are the protagonists in the struggle for their future. Melissa is a member of the Environmental Justice Advisory Council (EJAC) to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection where she serves as Co-Chair of the Air Committee. She also serves on the steering committee for the Coalition for Healthy Ports, a regional collaboration of groups and individuals concerned with diesel emissions from the freight industry. Nationally, she is on the Advisory Board of the Moving Forward Network and is part of the leadership team of the Climate Justice Alliance Black Caucus.

Her international affiliations include the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives. Recent recognition includes the Governor's Environmental Excellence Award, the 2021 Founders Award from the New Jersey League of Conservation Voters, and the Advocacy and Organizers Award from the Housing & Community Development Network of New Jersey for her role as a part of the coalition of advocates instrumental in the passing of New Jersey's landmark Environmental Justice Law in 2020. Melissa's vision is to support environmental and climate justice for communities that are rooted in place, where people can live, work, learn, and play in health and harmony. She currently serves as the Executive Director of New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance, a statewide organization dedicated to serving New Jersey's low-income and Of Color communities overburdened by the impacts of pollution and climate change.

Peg Hanna
Assistant Director, Air
Monitoring and Mobile
Source programs, NJDEP



Peg Hanna is the Assistant Director overseeing the Air Monitoring and Mobile Source programs at NJDEP. For the past 15 years, her primary focus has been to develop policies and programs that effectively reduce emissions from the transportation sector, beginning with the Diesel Retrofit Law in 2005 and now the EV Law in 2020. She continues to collaborate with industry, environmental, and other stakeholders to achieve a zero-carbon transportation future. She has been with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for 30 years, spending the earlier part of her tenure in NJDEP's Compliance and Enforcement program developing policies and regulations for stationary sources.

She received a B.S. in Biology from the University of Scranton.

Hannah Thonet
Policy Advisor, Energy +
Environment · New Jersey
Office of the Governor



Hannah Thonet is a climate and energy strategist and policymaker charting New Jersey's path to 100% clean energy. Chief architect of New Jersey's 2019 Energy Master Plan and Senior Policy Advisor in the state's regulatory and energy office.

Previous experience includes serving as Chief of Staff in the NYC Department of Environmental Protection with a primary focus on NYC's sustainability efforts, resiliency, stormwater management, and interagency projects, and nine years of project management and communications experience in the private, public, nonprofit and labor sectors.

Hannah attended Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs

Christine Sadovy
Chief Of Staff at New
Jersey Board of Public
Utilities



Christine Sadovy is the chief of staff of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. Sadovy is a former legislative and political director for the Planned Parenthood Action Fund of New Jersey, a former advocacy director for Planned Parenthood of Central and Greater Northern New Jersey, and a former organizing representative for the Sierra Club.

Pallavi Madakasira
Director of the New
Jersey Economic
Development Authority's
(NJEDA's) Clean Energy
Products



Pallavi Madakasira is the Director, Clean Energy Sector, New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) where she helps shape and lead efforts to ensure the state's long-term competitiveness in the clean energy sector. She oversees the grant programs and the development of initiatives to create green jobs. Prior to joining NJEDA, Pallavi worked as Head of Strategic Marketing at Solvay and at Lux Research, advising Fortune 500 companies to help define their strategies in the field of clean energy technologies, including solar, wind, and electric vehicle (EV) transportation. Pallavi received her Master's Degree in Physics from the University of Texas at Dallas.

Assemblyman Sterley Stanley



Assemblyman Stanley currently represents legislative district 18. Prior to the New Jersey legislature, Assemblyman Stanley served as a two-term councilman and two years as council president in East Brunswick, where he has lived for more than twenty years with his three children. During his time as council president, he prioritized engagement with community members and structured meetings to be transparent and responsive to resident concerns. Assemblyman Stanley has worked in the financial sector in insurance, mortgage banking, and investment management. He has thus served as a Board Trustee of the Christian Lighthouse Fellowship Church, where he helped secure financing for renovation projects. Stanley serves as Board President of the Fox Meadow Condo Association, championing fiscal responsibility and quality service.

He led similar efforts as a board member of The Courts Housing Association to restore the organization's financial health. As a legislator, he is representing his diverse constituents as the first South Asian Assemblyman from Middlesex County. He currently serves on the Assembly Health Committee and Assembly Law & Public Safety Committee, and works to meet the needs of the communities he represents, to enhance the region as a whole, while promoting inclusion and equity for all members of the district.

Jacqueline Piero
VP Policy, Nuvve Holding Corp.



Jacqueline Piero is the Vice President of Policy for Nuvve responsible for assessing the state of policy and regulatory landscape, market structures, and energy ecosystems to determine what business models and services are possible. She also determines what barriers need to be addressed before charting policy and an advocacy path for each new jurisdiction where Nuvve will operate. Jacqueline has a Masters in Policy from the University of Delaware.

Orville Thomas
Government Relations Director, Lion Electric



Orville Thomas is the Director of Government Relations for Lion Electric. He comes to Lion after spending the last decade working in California politics and influencing federal policies on transportation and health issues. Orville originally worked in journalism as a TV news reporter in Northern California until attending the University of California, Berkeley to get his Master of Public Policy degree. Since then he has worked as a spokesperson for the California High-Speed Rail Authority, served as the Deputy Director of Public Affairs for the California Department of Public Health, and was the Government Affairs Director for the California Alliance for Jobs and the California Immigrant Policy Center.

Matt Stanberry
Managing Director,
Highland Electric



Matt Stanberry is currently a Managing Director at Highland Electric. Matt is an energy expert covering the industry as well as its environmental and public health impacts. Previously Matt was the AEE's analytics team. Before that, he was a management consultant within Navigant's Energy Practice, focused on renewable energy, energy efficiency, and emerging technology markets, business strategy, and implementation. Before Navigant, Matt was a consultant for ICF International addressing energy, climate, and other environmental and public health issues.

He holds a Bachelors's degree from Duke University and a Masters in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University.

Jim Woods
Director of Business
Development, First
Student



Jim Woods is currently the Director of Business Development and has more than forty years of experience in student transportation, with the last fourteen years devoted to Business Development. Jim began his career in student transportation as a school bus driver during college and spent time in various areas of the business while progressively accepting additional responsibilities. Prior to his role in Business Development, Jim spent seven years as Regional Vice President of the Middle Atlantic Region with responsibility for more than 2,500 buses and employees in 28 locations.

During his tenure in Business Development, Jim has assisted more than forty school districts to transition to First Student provided services. He is responsible for Business Development activities in ten states in the middle Atlantic and northeastern US.

Todd Hranicka
Director Solar Energy,
Electric Vehicles & Energy
Storage Public Service
Electric & Gas Company



Todd Hranicka is responsible for the utility's Solar 4 All® and Solar Loan programs, and Electric Vehicle and Energy Storage initiatives. Solar 4 All, a \$680 million initiative that has built 158 megawatts-dc of grid connected solar projects throughout PSE&G's electric service territory. Including 86 megawatts-dc of large-scale solar projects exclusively on landfill and brownfield sites. Solar Loan is a \$335 million program that provides term loans to PSE&G electric customers to build over 145 megawatts-dc of solar on their homes and businesses. January, 2021 PSE&G received New Jersey Board of Public Utilities approval to invest \$166 million in electric vehicle infrastructure throughout their service territory. Prior to joining PSE&G, Hranicka was a Vice President with Vanguard Energy Partners, one of the east coast's largest solar construction firms. Hranicka is a graduate of the University of Delaware

Trisha Dello Iacono
National Field and
Legislative Manager,
Mom's Clean Air Force



Trisha Dello Iacono as the National Field and Legislative Manager, brings the voices and stories of concerned parents from across the country to members of Congress to advocate for policies that protect kids' health in a bipartisan, or "Mompartisan," setting—because protecting kids' health shouldn't be a partisan issue. Her work has been recognized by the [New York Times](#), *E & E*, and the [Philadelphia Inquirer](#), to name a few.

This work is deeply personal to Trisha. When one of Trisha's children was just two years old, he was sickened from vinyl chloride after a train derailed in a nearby community, leaving them with no option other than to breathe in the toxic and carcinogenic chemical. Then in 2016, Liam was exposed again, this time to a form of mercury found in his school flooring. Liam now has chronic health issues due to these exposures, and Trisha has made it her life's mission to ensure all children have access to clean air and protections from toxic chemicals.

Trisha has an MBA and serves on the board for the Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health in NYC.

Aaron Viles,
Program Manager, Policy
Electrification Coalition



Aaron Viles is a program manager for the Electrification Coalition, focused on helping accelerate community efforts to increase adoption of EVs. He is based in Lexington, KY. With over 20 years of experience in advocacy, Aaron comes to the EC from a stint in electoral politics, recently working with the Kentucky Democratic Party. Aaron brings experience with environmental, energy, and online advocacy to the EC team. He is currently the volunteer chair of the board of directors of Healthy Gulf, a New Orleans-based regional environmental group.

Justin Balik
Senior Manager, State
Policy for Transportation
Electrification, WRI Ross
Center for Sustainable
Cities



Justin Balik is Senior Manager, State Policy for Transportation Electrification, WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities. He leads state engagement for WRI's Electric School Bus Initiative, an effort to create unstoppable momentum over the next five years on a path toward electrifying the entire fleet of U.S. school buses by 2030.

Prior to joining WRI, Justin held several leadership roles in state and local government, as well as in the nonprofit sector. He was most recently Deputy Chief of Staff at the New Jersey Economic Development Authority and was previously Director of State and Federal Affairs at the New York City Department of Transportation.

Earlier in his career, Justin was Manager of Public Policy and Government Affairs at A Better City, a non-profit business association in Boston focused on transportation and infrastructure issues. In 2020, Justin also served on the Biden campaign's Infrastructure Policy Committee.

Justin holds a B.A in American Studies from Brandeis University and an MPA from Northeastern University. Justin lives in South Orange, NJ. with his wife, Larissa, and children, Madeline and Jackson.

