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Remembering Dr James Walker - (Docket No 23-BUSMTG-01 - April 12, 2023 - Agenda Item #5)

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



EDF Renewables North America
15445 Innovation Drive
San Diego, CA 92128
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April 5, 2023

California Energy Commission
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Remembering Dr. James Walker (Docket No. 23-BUSMTG-01 - April 12, 2023 - Agenda Item #5)

Dear Chairman Hochschild and Commissioners:

I am both honored and in sorrow to have this opportunity to remember Dr. James Walker. "Jim," as we knew him, did not fit within a single archetype. He was an academic and a business entrepreneur, a pioneer and a holder of important institutional memory. He served under Republican Presidents and a Democratic Governor of California. He was passionate about the environment, and this passion led him to be an early pioneer of the California wind industry. As Californians, we are all benefiting from Jim's leadership at the CEC and in our state's private sector.

While interviewing for my current position in 2004, totally new to the renewable energy industry, I was introduced to Jim. The conversation was a perfect example of how Jim thrived in solving problems amid the complexity of our business, I later paraphrased that first meeting to my wife as "Putting together a wind project is like being blindfolded in a dark room with a hammer and the task is to drive nails you cannot see. If you miss one, it's a million-dollar mistake, if you miss two, it's a \$2 million mistake. And if you miss three, then you are bankrupt."

Jim had a brilliant intellect. He was extremely curious and believed in science. He cared about forging trust and consensus. Most notably on that front, he founded the American Wind Wildlife Institute, now the Renewable Energy Wildlife Institute. REWI brings together renewable energy development companies and national environmental non-profits to pursue proactive research, which in turn supports the building of clean megawatts and minimizes their impact on our common biological inheritance. It is the perfect embodiment of Jim's commitment to our collective development of knowledge and best practices to protect our environment.

Jim was a mentor to many in the renewable energy industry and beyond. Women in Wind Energy, now Women of Renewable Industries and Sustainable Energy, honored Jim nine years ago for his "generosity of time and knowledge" to a new generation of leaders in the industry. Jim also mentored staff at EDF Renewables, particularly on best practices in permitting and siting.

Jim was a man of the world. While his importance to California's energy policy pathway is immense, he was very busy elsewhere spreading the benefits of renewable energy. He developed wind projects in Greece and was instrumental in our company building our first wind project in Oaxaca state in Mexico.



Early in his varied and fascinating career, he even served in the Nixon and Ford Administrations to work on nuclear safety with the Soviet Union. More recently, he co-founded a company in South Africa.

Most importantly, Jim was a man who deeply cared about our world, and who had an entrepreneurial passion that helped to make our industry what it is today. He was also somebody you wanted to talk with—he could guarantee that a shared dinner would be accompanied by fascinating conversation, a questioning of assumptions, and some very humorous anecdotes. He was central to the evolution of our company and our industry. We are grateful for his impact. We miss him greatly. We will continue to honor him by earnestly pursuing our state’s sustainable energy future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tristan Grimbert".

Mr. Tristan Grimbert

President & CEO
EDF Renewables