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March 3, 2011

Dear Mayor Curtatone,

I am writing to express my interest in joining the Commission on Energy Use and Climate Change (CEUCC). I have been a citizen of Somerville for more than 12 years and have two children in the public school system (at the Brown School), with my youngest son about to enter the public schools in September 2011. Making a contribution to my home city and working to make it an even better place is a priority for my family. I was elected to the Brown School Council, through which I have been fortunate to work to strengthen ties between the school and the wonderful educational resources that the people and community organizations of Somerville offer. I hope I will also have an opportunity to contribute to civic life through the CEUCC, where I feel my professional expertise and passion for leaving a better world to our children could merge.

I am an environmental microbiologist by training and have been teaching and conducting research in environmental and climate change science for more than 20 years. For the last 12 years, I have been a professor at UMass-Lowell, where I currently lead the UMass-Lowell Climate Change Initiative. It has become clear to the vast majority of scientists that climate change is creating urgent challenges, with impacts that we are already feeling and that are virtually certain to intensify. I also believe and hope that Somerville is poised to meet those challenges and show leadership in creating a sustainable and resilient community that can be a model to other cities. I would be honored to have an opportunity to join others in our community and city government who are working towards such a future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Juliette N. Rooney-Varga'.

Juliette Rooney-Varga, Ph.D.