

## JOINT RESOLUTION

### BY THE COUNTIES OF OSWEGO & WAYNE

### IN SUPPORT OF THE PRESERVATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES AND ATTRIBUTES OF ZERO-EMISSIONS NUCLEAR POWERED ELECTRIC GENERATING FACILITIES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE ELECTRIC SYSTEM, ITS CUSTOMERS AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

**WHEREAS**, in response to Governor Andrew Cuomo's to the New York State Department of Public Service (DPS) to develop a Clean Energy Standard, in an effort to achieve a 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, while at the same time increasing by 50% the renewable sources of energy in New York State by the year 2030; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Cuomo's leadership and forward-looking approach to the environment and economy is a standard by which all other states should follow, and has resulted in the development of a Clean Energy Standard proposal currently under consideration by the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC), in a proceeding identified as Case No.: 15-E-3020, Proceeding on Motion of the Commission to Implement a Large-Scale Renewable Program and a Clean Energy Standard; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 8, 2016, the staff of the DPS issued its responsive proposal for preserving zero-emissions attributes of nuclear-powered electric generating facilities as part of a component of the Clean Energy Standard under consideration by the PSC; and

**WHEREAS**, the counties of Oswego and Wayne are home to all four nuclear facilities and will be directly affected by the proposals currently under consideration by the PSC; and

**WHEREAS**, the legislative bodies of Oswego and Wayne wish to jointly acknowledge and support Governor Cuomo's leadership on this matter, and the DPS staff's analysis of the values and attributes of preserving all four nuclear power plants in our respective counties; and

**WHEREAS**, the adoption of the DPS staff's responsive proposal, including the formula for establishing Zero-Emissions Credits (ZECs), will have immediate and significant economic and environmental benefits for the State of New York as a whole, and Upstate New York in particular; and

**WHEREAS**, the replacement of the zero-emission nuclear power with equivalent amounts of fossil-fueled electrical generation would result in an increase of approximately 31 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted into the atmosphere over the next two years with a societal cost of \$1.4 billion, as reported by The Brattle Group; and

**WHEREAS**, the report by The Brattle Group produced in 2015 found the nuclear plants that provide the zero-emission attributes at risk provide direct economic benefits of approximately \$1.7 billion per year, including critical local economic and Statewide benefits in the form of property taxes and on average over 2,600 well-paying jobs (as well as secondary employment benefits); and

**WHEREAS**, the legislative bodies of Oswego and Wayne support the conclusions of DPS staff that the benefits of paying for the zero-emission attributes far exceed the costs, in that during the first two years of the program, the economic and environmental benefits associated with carbon reductions, supply cost savings and property tax benefits are estimated to be approximately \$5 billion, while during this same period, the total attribute payments are calculated to be up to \$965 million, for a net benefit of \$4 billion; and

**WHEREAS**, implementation of the proposal supports New York's environmental stewardship, protects the energy market from an over-dependence on fossil fuel, promotes the upstate economy, and allows New York time to implement the 50% by 2030 renewable portion of the CES standard; and

**WHEREAS**, failure to recognize the substantial value that upstate nuclear contributes at this critical time will result in higher energy costs, capacity costs, higher CO<sub>2</sub> and other criteria pollutants and lock New York State into an enormous long term dependence of fossil fuel for the next 20-30 years; and

**WHEREAS**, the DPS staff's proposal is fair and accurate and should be implemented expeditiously to ensure future refueling outages can be executed at each of these critical nuclear facilities located in Oswego and Wayne counties; and

**WHEREAS**, the legislative bodies of the counties of Oswego and Wayne are committed to working with the PSC and other stakeholders on this important proceeding;

**NOW, THEREFORE, UPON DUE DELIBERATION AND CONSIDERATION IT IS AND SHALL HEREBY BE:**

**RESOLVED**, that the legislative bodies of the counties of Oswego and Wayne acknowledge the leadership and efforts of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo in pursuing solutions that are intended to save the economic engines that are our upstate nuclear

facilities, while at the same time leading the rest of the country in a Clean Energy Standard that helps to sustain our environment for generations to come; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the legislative bodies of the counties of Oswego and Wayne urge the PSC to incorporate the DPS staff's responsive proposal for preserving zero-emissions attributes into the final order in Case No.: 15-E-0302: Proceeding on Motion of the Commission to Implement a Large-Scale Renewable Program and a Clean Energy Standard; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the PSC's final order, incorporating DPS staff's proposal for ZECs, be issued as soon as possible to ensure that the nuclear facilities located in Oswego and Wayne counties are in a position to utilize the ZECs, thereby continuing to support the economy of Upstate New York, while preserving the ability to generate reliable electricity for the State of New York, and helping to sustain a clean environment to pass along to generations that follow.

**ADOPTED BY THE OSWEGO COUNTY LEGISLATURE ON THE 14<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JULY, 2016.**

**ADOPTED BY THE WAYNE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON THE 19<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JULY 2016.**

**COUNTY OF OSWEGO**

**COUNTY OF WAYNE**

*/s/ Kevin Gardner*

By: Kevin Gardner, Chairman

*/s/ Steven M. LeRoy*

By: Steven M. LeRoy, Chairman