

Upstate Energy Jobs

November 10, 2016

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

On behalf of the 139 undersigned organizations and individuals, representing leading environmental, labor, business, educational, economic development and civic organizations, we want to commend you and the staff of the New York State Department of Public Service (DPS), as well as the Public Service Commission (the Commission) for the recent adoption of the Clean Energy Standard (CES) and encourage you to continue working to implement it.

The CES sets an ambitious, but achievable, goal of 50 percent of its power from renewable energy sources by 2030, and a reduction in carbon emissions by 40 percent during the same time. This effort demonstrates New York's leadership in achieving a clean, healthy environment for all of its residents. We appreciate the care and consideration that went into crafting the CES, including its recognition of the value of nuclear energy in providing carbon-free energy and as part of the solution for reducing carbon emissions.

New York possesses a diverse portfolio of electricity resources. More than 26 percent of New York's electric power comes from renewable sources, including hydroelectric, wind, biomass and solar. The growth of these renewable energy sources has also stimulated the state's economy spurring billions in direct investment. The CES has created a framework that will continue to encourage additional growth and development of this sector.

At the same time, nuclear energy provides 61 percent of New York's carbon-free electricity and by developing policies that ensure its continued operation the state will prevent the emission of 26 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, the equivalent level of emissions generated by approximately 5.5 million cars. As the Commission detailed, this leads to a net benefit of up to \$4 billion in the value of lower emissions and less air pollution. Much like the growing renewables sector, nuclear energy provides significant economic benefits, with the state's three upstate facilities alone, contributing thousands of well-paying jobs for New Yorkers, \$144 million in state and local taxes and over \$3 billion in state economic activity.

Throughout the regulatory process, the Commission and DPS staff conducted a rigorous review of the entire program considering nearly 10,000 public comments. While we recognize there will continue to be critics, we encourage the State to follow the earlier decision of the Commission and finalize the CES.

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With this action, New York has created a national standard where we are able to tackle the fundamental impacts of climate change, increase the use of renewable energy, prevent an increase in our reliance on fossil fuels such as natural gas and coal, recognize the value of carbon-free nuclear energy and maintain well-paying jobs, all while creating new jobs throughout the state.

The CES is a “win-win” for residents and we encourage you to support its implementation as adopted by the Commission. We appreciate your leadership and that of the DPS staff and Commission and we look forward to working with you on the implementation of the CES. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kevin Gardner
Chairman
Oswego County Legislature

Richard Hanna
US Representative
NY's 22nd District

John Katko
US Representative
NY's 24th District

Patty Ritchie
New York State Senate
District 48

William A. Barclay
New York State Assembly
District 120

Bob Oaks
New York State Assembly
District 130

Deborah F. Stanley
President
State University of New York at
Oswego

Theodore J Skerpon
President/Business Manager
IBEW Local 97

William J. Barlow, Jr.
Mayor
City of Oswego

Ron Woodward
Mayor
City of Fulton

Randy Wolken
President & CEO
MACNY

Kenneth E. Burdick
Supervisor
Town of Scriba

Sean Bruno
Superintendent
Mexico Academy and Central
School District

Dean Goewey
Superintendent
Oswego City Schools

Peg Churchill
Executive Director
Wayne County Economic
Development / IDA

Gregory Lancette
President
Central and Northern New York
Building and Construction Trades
Council

David F. Haines
Regional Manager
Northeast Regional Council
Of Carpenters

Robert Loubier
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
Eastern Millwright Regional
Council

William Shannon
Business Manager
Upstate NY Laborers
District Council

Brian McMahon
Executive Director
New York State Economic
Development Council

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Executive Director
Central New York Regional
Planning & Development Board

Anthony M. Castrello
Business Manager/FST
Sheet Metal Workers Local 58

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Construction Employers
Association of CNY Inc.

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Oswego CLC, AFL-CIO

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Majority Leader
Oswego County Legislature

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Minority Leader
Oswego County Legislature

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Village of Mexico

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Town of Mexico

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Rick Shirtz
Regional President CNY
NBT Bank

Mark E. Tryniski
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Fitzgibbons Real Estate &
Insurance

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Senior Vice President
Chief Credit Officer
Pathfinder Bank

Michael Backus
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Oswego County

Timothy Teifke
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Town of New Haven

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UA Plumbers & Steamfitters
Local 73

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Business Manager
Plumbers & Pipefitters
Local 112

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Business Manager
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Heat & Frost Insulators
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Oswego County

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CNY Regional Staff Director
New York State United
Teachers

Ann Marie Taleircio
President
The Central New York Area Labor
Federation, AFL-CIO

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Oswego County Legislator, 5th
District
Chairman, Community Health
and Poverty
Reduction Task Force

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Senior Business Advisor
Small Business Development
Center at
SUNY Oswego

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Chief Accountant
Oswego County

Janice Bailey
Vice President
Natural Gas Business Associates

Jennifer Cook
Chief of Staff
Office of Assemblyman Barclay

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Mutual of Omaha

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COO
Oswego Hospital

Kevin Ahern
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Michael J. Lyon, PhD
Upstate Medical University

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Business Manager
IBEW Local 1049

Timothy Fay
Labor Relations Specialist
New York State United Teachers

David J. vonHoltz Jr.
Technology Education Teacher
Mexico Academy & Central
Schools

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Business Manager
IBEW Local 2154

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New York State Association of
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Relationship Mgr Commercial
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