



May 23, 2013

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

Dear Governor Cuomo,

As representatives and supporters of New York's clean energy industry, we commend your commitment to providing improved, cost-effective electric service for Long Islanders. While restructuring the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA), bringing it under PSC jurisdiction, and giving a utility such as PSEG more authority to manage utility operations may help achieve this goal, we urge you to ensure that LIPA's renewable energy and energy efficiency activities continue uninterrupted and expand throughout this transition and beyond, and that any new decision-makers remain accountable to Long Island customers for the ongoing delivery of these programs and the benefits they bring.

Although the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy highlighted a number of flaws with LIPA's current operations, its renewable energy and energy efficiency programs have emerged as a bright spot. These programs should be preserved and expanded without delay or interruption so that Long Island can continue to create clean energy jobs, leverage private sector investments in a 21st century energy infrastructure, and build a diverse and environmentally conscious energy portfolio for a more resilient grid.

The LIPA Solar Pioneer and Solar Entrepreneur programs are particular success stories, with over 6,000 solar installations representing more than 53 MW of clean distributed power to date, and saving Long Island home and business owners millions of dollars per year on their electric bills. Enrollment in these programs continues to increase, which supports job growth and contributes to your goal of expanding the amount of solar power installed in New York. Any

interruption to these programs would result in significant layoffs and a setback in the development of the solar industry on Long Island.

Furthermore, in its 2013 budget LIPA approved commitments to expanding the successful solar feed-in tariff program and issuing a solicitation for procuring additional clean energy resources in July of 2013. As described by LIPA, these clean energy initiatives are necessary in order for LIPA to meet the minimum clean energy goals that are already in place for all of the other major electric distribution utilities in New York. These announcements also sent positive signals to the clean energy industry and were consistent with your Energy Highway Blueprint and prioritization of the clean energy industry in the Long Island Regional Economic Development Council's "Final Strategic Plan for Long Island." As such, we encourage you and the members of the Legislature to ensure that any restructuring of LIPA maintains the successful on-site generation programs and fulfills LIPA's recent clean energy commitments, including:

- Support for LIPA's \$924 million 10-year energy efficiency program.
- Procuring 100 MW of additional solar energy capacity under the Clean Solar Initiative feed-in tariff (FIT) (beyond the current 50 MW solar FIT), and an additional 20 MW block of clean energy capacity via wind, fuel cells and other renewable resources.
- Commitment to issuing a competitive procurement for additional renewable energy supply for up to 280 MW of capacity by 2018. This procurement, combined with the expansion of the FIT, would bring an additional 400 MW on line by 2018.
- Along with NYPA and Con Edison, continuing to pursue and seek private and federal funds where feasible for the LI-NYC Offshore Wind Project, which could produce between 350-700 MW and is currently in the lease application stage with the Bureau of Energy Ocean Management.

As your proposal moves forward through the legislative process, we hope to hear from you strong support for the ongoing implementation of these already approved initiatives on their current schedules, and a smooth transition in their administration and oversight, if necessary, from LIPA to PSEG. Without such assurances, Long Island ratepayers risk losing an important opportunity to meet the Island's future energy needs and create more grid resiliency using a diverse mix of energy resources and efficiency measures, as well as receiving the much needed economic development benefits that will result from these initiatives.

We welcome the opportunity to further discuss our concerns and suggestions and look forward to working with you and your staff in building a strong and sustainable energy infrastructure on Long Island.

Sincerely,

Valerie Strauss, Interim Executive Director
Alliance for Clean Energy New York

Adrienne Esposito, Executive Director
Citizens Campaign for the Environment

Conor Bambrick, Air and Energy Program Director
Environmental Advocates of New York

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Lisa Dix, Senior New York Representative, Beyond Coal Campaign
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Peter Olmsted, Mid-Atlantic Solar Advocate
The Vote Solar Initiative

CC: Richard Kauffman, Chair, Energy Finance Sub-Cabinet
Tom Congdon, Assistant Secretary for Energy