July 25, 2019

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

Re: S. 23/A.4294 In Relation to Maintaining the Continued Viability of the State’s Existing Large-Scale, Renewable Energy Resources

The Alliance for Clean Energy New York (ACE NY) supports S.23/A.4294 and urges your immediate signature. This bill would allow New York State to maintain its existing baseline of renewable electricity generators. This support for existing renewable energy facilities will help to save the jobs that these generators have created; encourage generators to sell their renewable energy credits in New York rather than out-of-state; and allow New York to achieve state goals at the lowest cost to ratepayers.

New York has a 70% by 2030 renewable electricity mandate established by the recently passed Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. Achieving these goals will require use of the full range of renewable technologies. It will require building new renewables as well as retaining existing projects. For existing projects to remain in operation, we need adequate pricing signals as this bill sets out.

In 2018, twenty-six percent of the State’s electric load was supplied by renewable resources, all while supporting over 22,000 jobs in the renewable generating sector. Should these existing resources fall out of operation, New York State will lose valuable jobs. By ensuring that the utilities are responsible for procuring renewable energy from existing facilities, this bill would help to keep those facilities in operation.

In addition, this bill would help New York get to 70% by retaining existing clean attributes in state. Currently, New York does not allow existing generators to participate in state procurements, but RPS programs in neighboring states do. This has created the imminent threat of losing some of our baseline clean energy generation to out-of-state customers, which this bill is intended to remedy. Numerous generators are already exporting to the New England market. Furthermore, a recent study performed by Synapse Energy Economics shows the substantial cost savings of retaining our existing renewable generation as compared to building additional new facilities.

For the above reasons, the Alliance for Clean Energy New York urges your signature on this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

Anne Reynolds
Executive Director
ACE NY
Cc:
Dale Bryk, Deputy Secretary for Energy & Environment
Amanda Lefton, First Assistant Secretary for Energy & Environment
Jennifer Maglienti, Energy & Environment Counsel
Peter Olmsted, Chief of Staff, NYSERDA
Doreen Harris, Vice President - Large Scale Renewables, NYSERDA