August 23, 2019

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

Statement of Support for S.23/A.4294 to Maintain the Viability of the State’s Existing Large-Scale, Renewable Energy Resources

The Natural Resources Defense Council and New Yorkers for Clean Power write to express their strong support for S.23/A.4294 and urge your immediate signature. This bill would allow New York State to maintain its existing baseline of renewable electricity generators, help save jobs created by renewable facilities, and encourage generators to sell their renewable energy credits in New York rather than going out-of-state. These actions will help New York achieve state goals at the lowest cost to constituents.

As you know, New York has a 70 x 30 renewable electricity mandate established by the recently passed Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. Achieving this goal will require use of the full range of renewable technologies. It will require building new renewables as well as retaining existing projects. However, for existing projects to remain in operation, generators need adequate pricing signals. Signing S.23/A.4294 would achieve this and give generators necessary, steady pricing signals.

In addition, this bill would help New York get to 70% by retaining existing clean attributes in state. Currently, New York does not allow generators that do not have Tier 1 contracts to participate in state procurements, but RPS programs in neighboring states do. This has created an incentive to sell New York’s existing clean energy generation to out-of-state customers, which this bill is intended to remedy.

Reaching New York’s visionary climate goals will require substantial renewable energy facilities in New York state. A recent study performed by Synapse Energy Economics shows the substantial cost savings of retaining New York’s existing renewable generation as compared to building additional new facilities.¹

Supporting existing renewable energy facilities will allow New York to reach its clean energy goals at a lower cost and keep New York generators selling renewable electricity in New York.

The Natural Resources Defense Council and New Yorkers for Clean Power urge your signature on this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Cullen Howe
Natural Resource Defense Council

Elizabeth Broad
New Yorkers for Clean Power

Julie Tighe
New York League of Conservation Voters

Roger Downs
Sierra Club, Atlantic Chapter

Conor Bambrick
Environmental Advocates of New York