August 6, 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

Dear Governor Cuomo,

ReEnergy Holdings, a renewable energy company headquartered in New York State, supports S.23/A.4294 and urges your immediate signature. If signed into law, the State would be able to maintain its existing baseline of renewable electricity generators. At this time the baseline includes ReEnergy Black River, a secure, resilient and renewable biomass-derived energy resource that provides 100% of Fort Drum’s electricity demand and supports the mission of the 10th Mountain Division.

As you may recall, ReEnergy invested more than $50 million to retrofit this idled coal-burning facility to use biomass as its fuel and also to construct an intertie system to connect the facility behind-the-fence and provide electricity directly to Fort Drum’s two substations. This law would help retain the 300+ jobs in the North Country and Central New York that our project supports (assuming the Climate and Community Protection Act is modified so that biomass from sustainably sourced feedstock continues as a renewable energy resource as it has since the beginning of the State’s Renewable Portfolio Standard in 2014). This law also would help the State to achieve its ambitious renewable energy 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 this goal will require use of the full range of renewable technologies, including existing biomass projects like our project at Fort Drum. 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 addition, this law would help New York get to its goal by retaining existing clean attributes that are already in the state, as an increasing number of existing renewable energy projects have begun to sell their renewable energy attributes outside of the State, and at least one project (our biomass facility in Lewis County) has shut down in the absence of a robust program for re-contracting existing renewable...
energy facilities. 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.

ReEnergy urges your signature on this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

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