July 25, 2019

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

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

On behalf of EONY Generation Limited, the owner and operator of four run-of-river hydro facilities located upstate, and our parent company, Portage Power, I’m writing to express our strong support for S.23/A.4294 and to respectfully request your timely approval of the legislation.

New York’s existing renewable fleet makes crucial contributions to local economic development and employment, as well as to the avoidance of carbon emissions. However, lingering flaws in the design of the Renewable Energy Standard (RES) mean that the benefits of existing resources are not properly valued. Currently, New York does not allow generators like EONY to participate in state procurements. Meanwhile, RES programs in neighboring states do. This has created an incentive to sell NY’s existing clean generation to out-of-state customers, which this bill is intended to remedy.

Moreover, under the recently-enacted Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, New York’s renewables mandate has increased to 70% by 2030. EONY fully supports this objective. Nevertheless, achieving it will require the use of a broad range of solutions, including the retention of existing resources alongside the development of new ones. Importantly, the cost savings associated with retaining existing renewable generation – rather than building additional new facilities – are substantial, as corroborated by a study performed by Synapse Energy Economics in 2017.

S.23/A.4294 is critical to establishing the appropriate price signals that will enable New York to maintain its existing baseline of renewable generation. This bill will help protect the jobs that generators like EONY have created; incentivize selling renewable energy credits in New York, rather than out-of-state; and support the achievement of State policy goals at the lowest cost to ratepayers.

For the above reasons, Portage Power urges your signature on this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Greg Clarke
Chief Electricity Generation Officer