July 31, 2019

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Re: A.4294/S.23

Dear Governor Cuomo:

Environmental Advocates of New York supported A.4294/S.23 and encourages you to sign this legislation into law. This bill directs the Public Service Commission to establish a renewable energy credit program and targets for existing large-scale renewable energy resources.

Now that the nation-leading “Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA)” has been signed into law, New York State utilities are required to acquire 70% of the state’s electric load from renewable sources by 2030. Meeting this goal will require tools and mechanisms to continue the viability of existing large-scale renewable energy resources. According to the New York Independent System Operator, last year, 26.4% of the State’s electric load and 22,000 jobs were generated from the New York renewable sector. In the next 11 years, New York State needs to dramatically increase the renewable makeup of its electric load and it certainly cannot afford to lose any of its existing renewable energy sources.

The states adjacent to New York also have aggressive clean energy targets and incentive programs designed to attract renewable energy resources. This legislation provides the incentives to help ensure that renewable energy development projects stay in New York, and not attracted to neighboring states. Any downward adjustment in New York’s renewable energy baseline would make an already challenging mandate significantly more difficult to achieve. An incentive program that properly values the climate, health, environmental, and economic benefits existing renewable energy facilities contribute to the state, would help ensure that New York maintains the renewable energy resources it needs to meet the 2030 mandate.

Thank you for considering our views on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Conor Bambrick
Air and Energy Director
Environmental Advocates of New York