



December 21, 2021

The Honorable Michelle L. Phillips
Secretary
New York Public Service Commission
Three Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12223-1350

RE: Case Number 15-E-0302

Dear Secretary Phillips:

On behalf of the Capital Region Chamber, I write today to share our support for the Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE) and the Clean Path NY (CPNY) projects as part of the recent tier 4 projects that were recently selected and received finalized contracts from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).

The Capital Region Chamber represents over 2,800 businesses and organizations that employ more than 160,000 area residents. The Chamber is a unifying force for progress, leading opportunities for businesses to succeed, and for people and our communities to prosper. Increasingly, our membership, their leadership, and the communities where they reside are looking for opportunities to help improve energy sustainability, reduce emissions, and find opportunities for growth. The Commission has such an opportunity in front of them in the form of these contracts which will meet those objectives, improve grid reliability, and provide real, tangible benefits to both public health and the entire economy of New York State.

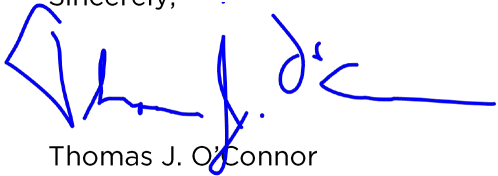
According to data provided by Governor Kathy Hochul's Administration, these projects represent the largest renewable energy and infrastructure investment in the last 50 years and will result in the removal of seventy-seven million tons of carbon dioxide emissions over the coming years. These projects are expected to provide over \$8 billion in new economic development for all New Yorkers and would create 10,000 new jobs for the state's skilled trades. By working in tandem, these projects will provide billions in significant local tax revenue and new investments for frontline communities in new job training and community revitalization efforts.

The state must act soon if it is to have a realistic chance of meeting the ambitious clean energy requirements set by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). The CLCPA requires the state to generate 70% of its power from renewable resources by 2030. Yet, according to federal data we only meet a fraction of that objective now. NYSERDA has long pointed out the fact that New York is operating under a "Tail of Two Grids" where nearly 90% of our clean energy resources are located upstate and we cannot get them downstate due to transmission bottlenecks. That means the state must start approving new clean energy infrastructure now and get serious about the future needs of our grid.

There is an important added benefit in these projects. It is our understanding that the selected contracts have built in provisions to help minimize impacts to consumer bills and that New York City has committed to providing \$1 billion to help reduce the costs for these projects. From the Chamber's perspective, we believe it is time to move these critical projects forward. They will provide much needed transmission infrastructure to help improve our grid, reduce carbon emissions, and bring additional New York-produced clean energy online while providing economic opportunity for our entire state.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the Chamber's comments. On behalf of the Capital Region Chamber, I respectfully request the Commission's approval of these contracts.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. O'Connor
Vice President, Government Relations

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