

November 14, 2024

Honorable Kathleen C. Hochul
Governor
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

In the past few months, many have raised serious questions about New York's energy future, which is among the most challenging issues facing businesses, economic leaders, labor unions, and New York residents. The conversation now is focusing on what it will take to meet current and projected energy demands, and the cost associated with necessary expansion of power generation and distribution. This discussion is long overdue, but nevertheless welcome as we approach the first set of state clean energy and climate goals mandated in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Your recent Future Energy Economy Summit in Syracuse helped advance these important conversations about how an "all-of-the-above" energy mix can help New York State achieve both its environmental and economic goals. The subsequent convening of the New York State Energy Planning Board for the first time since 2020 also presents an opportunity to carefully assess our current circumstances as it sets policy that will have ramifications on statewide energy investments — and the resulting economic consequences — for decades to come. We need a detailed technical review that results in an updated state energy plan that considers the totality of issues - and that is driven by a pragmatic approach as opposed to extreme voices advocating unrealistic outcomes.

When last we wrote to you about key concerns and recommendations on CLCPA implementation, we expressed concerns that our current path could result in unaffordable costs, harmful economic disruptions, and impeded economic growth. We agree that the most prudent path forward is based on the best available and most up-to-date updated information and data, with New York taking a workable approach to its energy and emission goals.

In the wake of the Syracuse summit, discussions have focused on an expanded role of nuclear energy in New York's energy future. These discussions have merit. Nuclear power should be evaluated for its potential as a reliable, resilient energy future source. Electrification has its place, however the accelerated electrification scenarios proposed by the Climate Action Council are proving to be unattainable. Nuclear power should be under consideration — and it will be, as outlined in the draft scope for how the Energy Policy Board should consider updating the New York State Energy Plan.

Of critical importance, this Energy Planning process must factor in a deep analysis of an “all-of-the-above approach,” and include statewide and regional assessments of how to achieve the right balance among competing interests — including maintaining safety and reliability, the affordability of energy services, cost avoidance, pacing to ease supply chain pressures and progress toward reducing carbon emissions — are essential.

These analyses must be dispassionate, following historical and forecasted demand of energy, and consideration of future power derived from all sources from nuclear power to renewables, natural gas to alternative fuels - including biofuel and renewable liquid fuels - to identify an achievable, reliable path forward. That in turn will increase New Yorkers’ confidence that the state has unified in moving toward realistic and effective goals while also maintaining opportunity for current and future generations.

The Planning Board’s careful consideration of not only the appropriate energy mix, but the workforce that will build and maintain it, the economic development it will support, the transportation systems it will define, and the growth it will enable, will lead to the most fulsome plan possible.

In summary, it is essential that this process results in a comprehensive state energy plan that truly takes “all-of-the-above” seriously and deeply analyzes affordability, reliability, load forecasts and available generation. Anything less will be a step back from the state’s recent positive progress in advancing its clean energy and environmental goals.

Signed,

Association of General Contractors of NYS
Buffalo Niagara Manufacturing Alliance
Buffalo Niagara Partnership
Business Council of New York State
Business Council of Westchester
Capital Region Chamber of Commerce
CenterState CEO
Council of Industry (of the Hudson Valley)
Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce
Empire State Energy Association
Empire State Forest Products Association
Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce
Greater Rochester Enterprise
Greater Utica Chamber of Commerce
Independent Oil and Gas Association of New York
Manufacturers Association of Central New York
Manufacturers Association of the Southern Tier
Multiple Intervenors
National Federation of Independent Business
National Fuel Gas

National Waste & Recycling Association
New York Construction Materials Association
New Yorkers for Affordable Energy
New York State Association of Convenience Stores
New York State Economic Development Council
The New Bronx Chamber of Commerce
Revere Copper Products, Inc.
Rochester Technology and Manufacturing Association
Rockland Business Association
Ulster County Chamber of Commerce
Upstate United

For additional information, please feel free to contact Ken Pokalsky at The Business Council of New York State, 518-694-4460 or ken.pokalsky@bcnys.org