

August 6, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Kathleen H. Burgess, Secretary
New York State Public Service Commission
Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 3
Albany, New York 12223-1350

Re: Proceeding on Motion of the Commission Regarding Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment and Infrastructure (18-E-0138)

Dear Secretary Burgess:

On behalf of millions of New Yorkers across the state, we wish to express our strong support for your leadership in establishing a proceeding on the utility role in the future of electric transportation. With clear, decisive action from the Public Service Commission, New York can overcome barriers to transportation electrification and deliver health, environmental, and economic benefits for all New Yorkers. To realize these broad benefits, we would like to highlight the importance of robust stakeholder engagement as part of this proceeding.

Electrification has emerged as an undeniable force affecting nearly all levels of the transportation industry. It is also a critical strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions – a top priority for protecting our communities from climate change. Communities throughout New York have been working to reduce climate pollution through vehicle electrification; in just one example more than 100 communities have fulfilled the Climate Smart Communities clean fleet action, investing in charging infrastructure or clean vehicles for their municipalities. Transportation is the leading source of climate pollution in New York, and we must accelerate efforts to address this challenge.

Transportation electrification is important for improving health in our communities. Exhaust from gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles contains nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, and other harmful compounds that cause asthma attacks, decreased lung function, respiratory illness, and premature death – particularly among the most vulnerable. These emissions have made the Bronx, Chautauqua, Kings, Nassau, New York, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester nonattainment areas for 8-hour ozone standards. Electrifying cars, trucks, buses, and other fleet vehicles significantly reduces local air pollution, making our communities healthier and more vibrant.

Electrification of transportation also provides new opportunities for economic development. The deployment and maintenance of charging stations increases demand for a skilled, technical workforce. Providing places for electric vehicles to recharge attracts visitors and economic investment in local communities. Electrification of transportation complements and strengthens New York's commitment to providing clean energy jobs.

Utility engagement and investment in transportation electrification initiatives – including charging infrastructure and outreach activities – is critical for accelerating the transition to electric mobility. Ensuring that utilities complement existing clean transportation initiatives, such as the Volkswagen Settlement Mitigation Plan and EVolve NY, will help maximize benefits to residents by providing the opportunity for more light-duty EV charging stations, bus and heavy-duty fleet electrification, and port equipment electrification. For these reasons, the Public Service Commission should convene an efficient process to encourage utility proposals that rapidly advance transportation electrification and support our communities.

We appreciate the Public Service Commission's commitment to exploring transportation electrification issues and stand ready to support New York's vision for a clean, modern, and equitable transportation future.

Sincerely,

George Latimer
County Executive, Westchester

Luis Alvarez
Chairman of the Sullivan County Legislature

Mayor Lovely Warren
City of Rochester

Mayor Mike Spano
City of Yonkers

Mayor Noam Bramson
City of New Rochelle

Mayor Tom Roach
City of White Plains

Mayor Steve Noble
City of Kingston

Mayor Tim Rogers
Village of New Paltz

Mayor Brian Pugh
Village of Croton-on-Hudson

Supervisor Dana Levenberg
Town of Ossining

Supervisor Nancy Seligson
Town of Mamaroneck

Supervisor David VanLuven
Town of Bethlehem

Supervisor Chris Burdick
Town of Bedford

Michael P. Hein
Ulster County Executive

