

January 13, 2020

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

RE: Benefits of a Strong PSC Order on Energy Efficiency Now

Dear Governor Cuomo:

Your national leadership fighting the threat of climate change with the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) will be greatly strengthened with a strong energy efficiency order from the Public Service Commission (PSC) this week. We cannot meet our ambitious climate goals without achieving our energy efficiency savings and we applaud the state for taking action now.

Investing in all cost-effective energy efficiency to reduce gas and electric use in buildings – implementing the *New Efficiency: New York (NE:NY)* plan and December 2018 PSC order – is a critical step toward our green economy. Now, the state’s utilities must start to implement the CLCPA goal of 185 trillion Btus of energy efficiency savings by 2025, and to plan for the transition to buildings powered by clean, renewable electricity. A strong efficiency order signals your administration’s commitment to achieving the promise of the CLCPA. Scaling up efficiency to this level will deliver one-third of the savings needed to meet New York’s 40% by 2030 carbon reduction goal while delivering additional benefits to local communities. There is no more cost-effective strategy to achieve the State’s carbon emission reduction goals than investment in energy efficiency.

Capturing enormous efficiency savings also makes the CLCPA’s 70% renewable electricity by 2030 and 100% carbon-free electricity by 2040 targets easier and less expensive to meet by reducing the total amount of energy we would otherwise need (absent these aggressive energy efficiency investments) from the offshore wind, land-based wind and solar that your administration is making great progress on. Energy efficiency will also deliver savings more quickly than infrastructure-intensive projects to transform New York to a net-zero carbon economy. **And speed is of the essence; we know that the coming decade is the most critical to “bend the curve” on our emissions trajectory.**

Energy efficiency is the fastest, cheapest, most local job-creating tool in our climate toolbox. Energy efficiency will drive economic development and create thousands of good, local, jobs for New Yorkers, continuing the impressive growth of the energy efficiency sector, which currently employs more than 120,000 of the 160,000 total clean energy jobs in New York. Energy efficiency needs to reach every community across the state, all of which will benefit from the jobs that come from making all of our buildings better. Energy savings are also consumer cost savings – the energy efficiency goals laid out in the *NE:NY* proceeding are projected to save New York consumers \$15 billion dollars through 2025 – and we hope new legislation for appliance standards and building codes is underway to add to those carbon and bill savings. In 2017 New Yorkers spent more than \$30 billion dollars on energy; adopting and implementing a strong energy efficiency order will help residents and businesses manage their energy bills, and ensure the energy we do use is clean, made-in-New York solar and wind generation.

New York’s continued leadership on energy efficiency, with a strong PSC order and subsequent smart implementation, will make **2020 the year when energy efficiency is firmly established as the foundation upon which New York’s climate and environmental justice leadership will be built, faster and stronger.** We all stand ready to help realize the promise of this critical efficiency win for the future of New York.

Sincerely,

The Alliance for Clean Energy New York

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