



MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Dear Governor Hochul:

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. We, the undersigned County Board Chairs of New York State, write to you to express our concerns regarding the current energy policies that prioritize certain renewable sources such as solar and wind over other alternatives. While we support the transition to cleaner energy and acknowledge the importance of reducing our carbon footprint, we are increasingly worried about the reliability, environmental impact, and economic implications of these sources.

As we all know, solar and wind energy depend heavily on weather conditions and specific geographical factors, which can lead to significant fluctuations in energy production. For the past decade Cornell University Professor C. Lindsay Anderson, Ph.D. has researched New York's power sources and transmission grid. In conclusion, her research shows that integrating a high percent of variable renewable energy sources into our grid will result in increased costs for New York State ratepayers and fall short of current estimates of producing sufficient power, resulting in dangerous blackouts during warm and cold weather events. These costs stem not only from the need for supplemental energy sources during periods of low generation, but also from necessary grid upgrades to facilitate the integration of intermittent power generation.

Given the financial strain these developments could place on our communities, we urge your administration to reconsider relying solely on solar and wind as primary energy sources without a more balanced approach that includes reliable options. Prioritizing intermittent sources like solar and wind will drive up energy costs, already at a tipping point, forcing businesses to move to states with more stable, affordable energy. New York must maintain its competitive edge, especially as Germany and Italy, after failing with solar and wind, are turning to France's model of reliable, cost-effective nuclear power. We urge you to support nuclear energy—both existing and advanced—to ensure a reliable and prosperous future. With rising electrical demand from data centers, electric vehicles, and electrification efforts, New York will need more capacity and greater reliability.

We also urge you to slow down the RAPID Act and the Office of Renewable Energy Siting's permitting process. New York State's costs for energy are already much higher than states to which our **residents** and **businesses** are moving. A more measured approach will provide the necessary time to address new technologies that are more reliable and cost-effective energy sources for the future of New York.

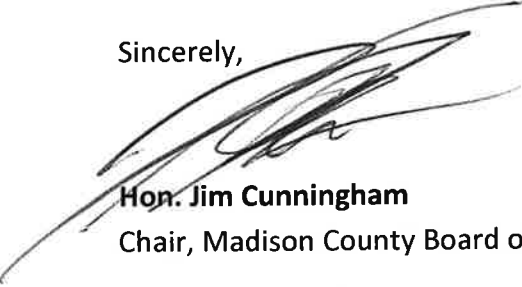
In addition to the unreliability of these technologies and rising costs, New York's agricultural lands are at risk. The expansion of solar fields and wind farms onto valuable farmland has lasting environmental and economic consequences. As non-agricultural development encroaches on

ultimately raise utility rates for consumers. To preserve the economic viability and integrity of our farmland and communities, each town must have the authority to negotiate directly with renewable energy companies seeking to build on our land.

We appreciate your commitment to spearheading initiatives that prioritize sustainability, but we ask that you also consider the broader implications for ratepayers and the need for a balanced energy approach that fosters both economic stability and environmental stewardship to maintain our valuable farmlands. On February 15, 2024, you stated that "Energy affordability continues to be a top priority in my clean energy agenda." The rush to site new wind and solar energy facilities not only works against that commitment, but will have permanent negative consequences for all of our communities.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. We look forward to your response and hope we can work together to create an energy framework that supports both environmental goals and economic growth in New York.

Sincerely,



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