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2007 JUN 18 PM 3:35

June 18, 2007

Honorable Jaclyn A. Brillling
Secretary
State of New York
Public Service Commission
Three Empire State Plaza, 19th Floor
Albany, NY 12223-1350

Re: Comments in Support of Raising the Ceiling for Net Metering In the Central Hudson Utility Territory

Environmental Advocates of New York supports an increase in the amount of on-site renewable energy eligible to receive net metering within the Central Hudson Utility service territory, as requested in a petition to the Public Service Commission (Commission) by the New York Solar Energy Industries Association and Sustainable Hudson Valley.

Net metering encourages investment in clean, renewable energy technologies. Promoting the use of these technologies to generate electricity helps protect New Yorkers from the harmful effects of air pollution created by fossil fuel-fired power plants. These harmful effects include various dangers to public health, increased levels of mercury contamination, destruction of our forests by acid rain, as well as wide-ranging negative effects associated with global climate change.

Greater reliance on clean, distributed generation would make additional power available during times of peak demand, reduce stress on transmission lines, and potentially avoid further large-scale power outages. Promoting clean, renewable sources of electric power through expanded net metering laws is a sound way to help protect New York's environment.

Increased use of on-site, clean power is in keeping with New York State energy policy as evidenced by current New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) programs in support of photovoltaics and customer-sited wind energy, the customer-sited tier of the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), and recent statements by the Governor and Lieutenant Governor on the need for more clean energy.

We respectfully request that the Commission increase in the amount of on-site renewable energy able to receive net metering within the Central Hudson Utility service territory. We also request that this proceeding move forward as quickly as possible.

Sincerely yours,

David Gahl
Air & Energy Program Director
Environmental Advocates of New York

Environmental Advocates of New York is the state's government watchdog, holding lawmakers and agencies accountable for enacting and enforcing laws that protect our natural resources and safeguard public health. Environmental Advocates works alone and in coalitions and has more than 7,000 individual and 130 organizational members. We are a tax-exempt 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization and are also the New York affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation.