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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

April 23, 2013

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The Honorable Gary A. Brown
Chairman
New York State Public Service Commission
3 Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12223-1350



I write in support of the proposal by NRG Energy, Inc. to repower the Dunkirk Generating Station in response to the February 19, 2013 Dunkirk Repowering Request for Proposal from National Grid. The proposal to repower the Dunkirk Generating Station, located in Chautauqua County, will ensure that the facility continues to play an important role in the tax base of the county and local government, provide about \$90 million annually in benefits to local ratepayers, provide reliability to the grid and promote efficiency and reduce emissions statewide.

The proposal to repower the Dunkirk Generating Station will protect the facility's contributions to the local tax base. If the facility is forced to shutter, the City of Dunkirk and the Dunkirk School District will see a combined revenue loss of about 42 percent. These losses could have a severe impact on the local education system, the municipality's ability to offer services and the local economy at large. In addition to the facility's contribution to the local tax base, repowering the Dunkirk Generating Station may reduce electricity rates by up to 5 percent for ratepayers. I encourage your office to take the local economic impacts into account when making your determination for the project.

The option offered by NRG to repower the coal-fired facility with a Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) will make the generating unit the most efficient gas-fired turbine in New York State. Efficiency is a key concern in today's fiscal climate for homeowners, businesses and governments. This facility stands to apply the latest technology in electricity generation for the efficient use of our natural gas resources, which will help lower emissions by 6 percent across facilities in New York State.

The repowering proposal from NRG will also ensure grid reliability in Western New York. The CCGT technology proposed to be installed will be equipped to respond quickly to demand fluctuations in order to meet reliability needs. In addition, repowering the facility accurately takes into account demand projections in Western New York; the CCGT proposed for the Dunkirk Generating Station will meet 11 percent of the region's projected demand in 2018. The facility is also uniquely situated to access low-cost natural gas from the interstate pipeline system. The presence of an adequate supply of natural gas will help to ensure the needs for reliability are met by the Dunkirk Generating Station.

Given the strong case for repowering the NRG's Dunkirk Generating Station with a new Combined Cycle Gas Turbine and refueling a unit with natural gas, I encourage you to approve their proposal. I appreciate your consideration of the economic, environmental and reliability benefits which will result from the repowering proposal. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Drew Wayne on my staff, at 202-225-3161, if I can be of any assistance on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Reed', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tom Reed
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
The Honorable Patricia L. Acampora
The Honorable Gregg C. Sayre
The Honorable Maureen F. Harris
The Honorable James L. Larocca
The Honorable Catharine Young
The Honorable Andy Goodell

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