MEMORANDUM IN OPPOSITION TO
A.9053-A (Jenne) / No Same As
Prohibits State Funding for Wind Electric Generation Facilities
Located in Areas Near Fort Drum

March 14, 2018

The Alliance for Clean Energy New York (ACE NY) strongly opposes A.9053-A. This bill would prohibit state funding for wind power facilities in six specified areas surrounding Fort Drum’s radar assets, airspace, and training area. This funding restriction will have the impact of eliminating the siting of wind farms in these high resource areas. This bill is designed to severely and unfairly curtail the operation of a single, targeted industry sector, and is not necessary for the secure operation or mission readiness of Fort Drum. The bill applies to projects that come into operation after July 1, 2018, and sunsets in 15 years.

Fort Drum is the home of the United States Army 10th Mountain Division, and is a significant resource for military readiness and an extremely important economic engine in New York’s North Country. The wind industry understands the importance of Fort Drum to the region and to the State, and will not act to compromise its operations. A U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) process already exists to prevent any wind power facilities from ever compromising military operations.

The Department of Defense has a review process in place through its Siting Clearinghouse (Sec. 358 of the FY 2011 NDAA). Under this process, the Department of Defense or any local military base can object to a wind project due to national security or operational concerns, and to date, no wind turbines have been constructed over the objection of the DoD or any local military base.

In New York, with the renewal of the Article 10 power generator siting law, our Legislature signaled that the siting of wind power facilities should be conducted in an objective and uniform manner. Instead of trying to limit wind development through the establishment of arbitrary restrictions, the State should allow the DoD Siting Clearinghouse process to make decisions on a case-by-case basis concerning a project’s impact based on an objective and detailed technical analysis. New York State’s Article 10 process complements these well-established federal level efforts.

Lastly, increasing our domestic energy supply is in the best interest of our national security. New York should continue to promote policies, such as the Clean Energy Standard (CES), to increase domestic energy sources such as wind power. Under the CES, New York must procure 50% of its energy from renewable sources by 2030. Passage of this bill substantially limits the available locations for homegrown wind generation facilities in New York.

For all the reasons stated above, ACE NY strongly opposes this legislation and urges lawmakers to vote against it. For more information contact Zack Dufresne at 518.432.1405.