MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF
A.4294 (Cusick) / S.23 (Parker)
In Relation to Maintaining the Continued Viability of the State’s Existing Large-Scale, Renewable Energy Resources

February 2019

The Alliance for Clean Energy New York (ACE NY) supports A.4294/S.23 and urges its immediate passage. This bill would allow New York State to maintain its existing baseline of renewable electricity generators. This support of existing renewable energy facilities will help to save the jobs that these generators have created; encourage generators to sell their renewable energy credits in New York rather than out-of-state; and allow New York to achieve state goals at the lowest cost to ratepayers.

New York has a 50% by 2030 renewable electricity mandate established by the Public Service Commission. The Governor proposed a more aggressive goal of 70% renewable electricity by 2030 in the 2019-20 Executive Budget. Achieving these goals will require use of the full range of renewable technologies. It will require building new renewables as well as retaining existing projects. We need adequate pricing signals for existing projects to remain in operation, as this bill sets out.

In 2016, twenty-four percent of the State’s electric load was supplied by renewable resources, all while supporting over 22,000 jobs in the renewable generating sector. Should these existing resources fall out of operation, New York State will lose valuable jobs. By ensuring that the utilities are responsible for procuring renewable energy from existing facilities, this bill would help to keep those facilities in operation.

In addition, this bill would help New York get to 50% by retaining existing clean attributes in state. Currently, New York does not allow existing generators to participate in state procurements, but RPS programs in neighboring states do. This has created the imminent threat of losing some of our baseline clean energy generation to out-of-state customers, which this bill is intended to remedy. Numerous generators are already exporting to the New England market. Furthermore, a recent study performed by Synapse Energy Economics shows the substantial cost savings of retaining our existing renewable generation rather than building additional new facilities.

This bill will also ensure fuel diversity for the State’s energy portfolio, providing energy security, system reliability, and protection to consumers from potential price spikes or shortages.

For the above reasons, the Alliance for Clean Energy New York supports this legislation. For more information contact Anne Reynolds, Executive Director, at 518-432-1405.