MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF

A.9508-A / S.7508-A (Part JJJ) - Executive Budget

In Relation to Accelerating the Growth of Renewable Energy Facilities to Meet Critical State Energy Policy Goals

February 26, 2020

The Alliance for Clean Energy New York (ACE NY) supports Part JJJ of the proposed Executive Budget and strongly urges its inclusion in the State Budget. Part JJJ would create a new permitting process for renewable energy projects greater than 25MW that continues the strong protections for environmental and local review as in the current Article 10 process. It also provides a program for the State to make ready under-utilized properties for development by renewable energy companies. The Bill also addresses electricity transmission bottlenecks and has provisions related to community benefits and taxation.

ACE NY enthusiastically support Part JJJ as the State seeks to implement the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act's ambitious and achievable renewable energy standards. Renewable energy needs to be sited, interconnected, and permitted more rapidly if the State of New York is to meet these nation-leading standards. It currently takes 5–10 years to get a renewable energy project built. This timeline just does not add up to achieving 70% renewable electricity by 2030 as required by the law, even considering aggressive energy efficiency and success in offshore wind development. We need to review and permit wind and solar projects much faster!

Part JJJ greatly improves the efficiency of review and permitting process without sacrificing environmental protection or local control. It continues to have strong environmental protections. It respects local control with a one year permit approval time frame, the same provision for projects to comply with local laws as Article 10 and sets aside intervenor funds for governments to hire the experts they need to establish their community norms.

In addition, the bill recognizes the important economic development role that renewable energy plays in our State. The bill allows Industrial Development Agencies (IDA’s) to offer incentives and creates programs offered to communities and property owners that host renewable energy projects. The bill also requires the Public Service Commission and the Power Authority to prioritize the electric transmission needs of our State.

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.
Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth & Community Benefit Act

S.7508-A/A.9508-A Part JJJ

Summary

I. Creates the Major Renewable Energy Development Program to meet the State’s renewable energy goals while protecting the environment and considering social, economic & environmental factors
   • Open to renewable energy projects greater than 25 MW & those with pending Article 10 applications
   • Administered by the Department of Economic Development – permit process and standards set by regulation based on the current standards for Article 10 permits with statutory deadlines
   • Same Environmental protections as current process and intervenor funds for local governments to hire experts

II. Economic Development and Property Taxes
   • Expands IDA support to renewable energy projects and NYSERDA will provide guidance in setting PILOTs
   • Creates a uniform calculate for the property tax assessment of wind and solar projects

III. Clean Energy Resources Development & Incentives Program
   • NYSERDA & Empire State Development will identify & pre-permit under-utilized sites, making them ready for auction to renewable developers
   • NYSERDA will develop incentive programs available to communities and property owners that host renewable energy projects & for lower residential electric bills in host communities

IV. Transmission
   • Assesses the upgrades needed to the local and bulk electricity transmission system
   • Streamlines transmission review process