**SAMPLE LETTER OPPOSING THE INCLUSION OF SUBSIDIES
FOR NUCLEAR POWER IN THE CLEAN ENERGY STANDARD**

Re: New York State Department of Public Service (NYS DPS) Staff White Paper on Clean Energy Standard

 CASE 15-E-0302 Large-Scale Renewable Program and Clean Energy Standard

Hon. Kathleen H. Burgess

Secretary

New York Department of Public Service

3 Empire State Plaza

Albany, NY 12223-1350

secretary@dps.ny.gov

Dear Secretary:

As an elected official, representing the electricity ratepayers in my district, I strongly support Tier 1 and Tier 2 of the NY State Public Service Commission’s proposed Clean Energy Standard to ensure the purchase of new and existing renewable energy resources. **However, I strongly oppose the inclusion of subsidies for aging, unsafe, and economically unsustainable nuclear reactors as proposed in Tier 3.**

The rationale for including the Tier 3 nuclear subsidies in the Clean Energy Standard is the unsupported assumption that New York cannot meet its 2030 greenhouse-gas reduction goals if the financially-unsustainable upstate nuclear plants are allowed to close. This has been disproven by many experts, who have found it is technologically and economically feasible to transition to a carbon-free and nuclear-free energy system. Nuclear power is not renewable or clean. Its entire fuel cycle poisons mining communities, contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, releases radiation into the environment around reactors, and creates high level radioactive waste. Subsidizing nuclear power will increase these very serious environmental and public health risks to communities in New York and across the United States.

It would also be fiscally irresponsible to make ratepayers bail out unprofitable nuclear reactors. The Nuclear Information and Resource Service and Alliance for a Green Economy estimate the proposed nuclear bailout could cost between $3.5 billion and $4.5 billion. If the Department of Public Service thinks otherwise, it should publically release its calculations and methodology, which I understand it has so far refused to do. **Whatever the cost, it is wrong to require our hard working ratepayers bail out nuclear reactors, which would be a form of corporate welfare that will be borne by all levels or government, schools and universities, hospitals and health care facilities, business large and small, and residents throughout New York.**

I recognize that nuclear closures will impact reactor host communities in Oswego and Wayne Counties, but massive consumer bailouts of these facilities is not the answer. I urge the Public Service Commission and Governor Cuomo to support communities through the transition to a green economy. This can include nuclear decommissioning jobs, transitional support for municipalities and school districts, and the siting of green manufacturing in Upstate New York.

In summary, I support Tier 1 and Tier 2 Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) and strongly oppose Tier 3 subsidies, the so-called Zero Emission Credits (ZECs) for nuclear power, which is not emission-free, cost-effective or safe for human health and the environment. In fact, I oppose any subsidies for aging nuclear reactors in New York, whether as part of the Clean Energy Standard or any other proceeding the NYS Public Service Commission may initiate.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,