

**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

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I applaud your efforts to ensure the purchase of new and existing renewable energy resources through the Clean Energy Standard. **However, I strongly oppose subsidies for aging, unsafe, and economically unsustainable nuclear reactors as the Public Service Commission has proposed as part of the Clean Energy Standard.**

The rationale for including 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 uranium 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. So far, the Department of Public Service has refused to publically release its calculations and methodology behind a lower cost estimate. **Whatever the cost, it is wrong to require our hard working ratepayers bail out nuclear reactors, a form of corporate welfare that will be borne by all levels of 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 subsidies for nuclear companies is not the answer. I urge you 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 Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) in the Clean Energy Standard, but strongly oppose the mandate the consumers pay for 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. I urge you to lead New York toward a carbon-free and nuclear-free energy system by withdrawing your support for nuclear bailouts in the Clean Energy Standard.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,