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MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF

S.6218-A (Parker) / A.7764 (Mitaynes)

Enacting the planned offshore wind transmission act

June 2023

The Alliance for Clean Energy New York (ACE NY) supports elements of bill S.6218-A /A.7764. This bill would require the State to conduct transmission planning for offshore wind projects and authorize the City of Long Beach to alienate and discontinue the use of certain parklands to maintain, construct, and operate subterranean conduits and electrical distribution cable systems.

S.6218-A /A.7764 would give authorization to the City of Long Beach, through its governing body, to use delineated parkland to construct, maintain, and operate a subterranean conduit and electrical distribution cable system in support of an offshore wind facility. After the completion of these systems, a portion of the parkland will be restored and returned to the City for continued use as parkland, and additional funds will be put towards acquisition or improvements of other parklands. This bill would take effect immediately with no fiscal implications to the State.

Long Beach, alongside Jones Beach, has the possibility of serving as the optimal conduit for offshore wind projects, which are integral to New York's goals of 9 gigawatts of offshore wind by 2035. This bill would also promote New York State's goal of boosting local economies, creating long-term Union jobs, and reducing the State's collective reliance on fossil fuels. A failure to swiftly pass this legislation would cause delays in project construction and impede New York State's renewable generation goals.

As the State of New York continues to meet its energy goals through the implementation of renewable energy projects, every part of the State must participate in these ambitions. ACE NY values the importance of transmission planning but does not find the transmission planning and coordination aspect of this bill to be essential, as much of this work is already underway. The alienation aspect of this bill is essential because renewable energy projects, like offshore wind, can only exist with the proper avenues to allow the energy generated from them to be transmitted onshore. S.6218-A /A.7764 could allow New York to reach its renewable energy goals and, also, allow the State to be a national frontrunner in renewable energy.

For the above reasons, the Alliance for Clean Energy in New York supports this legislation. For more information contact Deb Peck Kelleher, Deputy Director, at (c) 518-698-3211. All of ACE NY's memos on legislation are available at https://www.aceny.org/legislative-actions.