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MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF
S.8360 (Parker) /A.9127 Cusick

In Relation to maintaining the continued viability of the state's existing biomass facility which is located within a military installation

May 2022

The Alliance for Clean Energy New York (ACE NY) supports S.8360/A.9127 and urges its immediate passage. This bill would allow New York State to maintain its last remaining utility scale biomass facility. This support of existing (or legacy) renewable energy facilities will help to maintain the jobs that this facility has created, provide energy security, and enable New York to achieve the state's clean energy and greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals at the lowest cost to ratepayers.

Biomass is any plant-derived organic matter available on a renewable basis, including dedicated energy crops and trees, agricultural food and feed crops, agricultural crop wastes and residues, wood wastes and residues, aquatic plants, animal wastes, municipal wastes, and other waste materials. Biomass Heating R&D and Biomass Resources are NYSERDA programs designed to support the state's biomass energy initiatives¹. The U.S. Energy Information Administration considers biomass to be a carbon neutral energy source².

Since the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) in 2004, biomass has been considered a renewable source and has been contributing to New York's renewable energy usage. New York's renewable energy programs have supported two biomass projects totaling 69.3 megawatts³. New York State recently passed the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), which mandates that, by 2030, 70% of electricity will come from renewable energy systems and 100% be zero-emitting by 2040. The CLCPA excluded bioenergy from the definition of renewable energy systems⁴.

The sourcing of material for this facility is logging leftovers which are mainly treetops and branches and make up about 85 percent. The advantages of biomass are that it's locally grown, renewable, and costs less than fossil fuels. The Sustainable Forestry Initiative verifies that the fuel used comes from loggers who follow responsible land management practices. This biomass facility provides 100% of Fort Drum's electricity with a capacity of 60 Megawatts. It also provides energy security, sells excess electricity to the grid, and supports more than 300 jobs annually. The intent of this bill is to allow for the continued operation of New York's last remaining utility scale biomass facility⁵.

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

¹ <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/Researchers-and-Policymakers/Biomass>

² [Biomass and the environment - U.S. Energy Information Administration \(EIA\)](https://www.ncsl.org/research/energy/renewable-portfolio-standards.aspx)

³ <https://www.ncsl.org/research/energy/renewable-portfolio-standards.aspx>

⁴ <https://climate.ny.gov/Our-Climate-Act/Draft-Scoping-Plan>

⁵ <https://www.syracuse.com/news/2014/11/fort-drum-renewable-energy-wood-burning-power-plant.html>