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MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF
S.7442 (Parker)
Enacts the “Omnibus Renewable Energy Progress Act”

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The Alliance for Clean Energy New York (ACE NY) supports the Omnibus Renewable Energy Progress Act (REPA) S.7442, which would enact thirteen separate policies aimed at removing roadblocks to the construction of renewable electricity projects in New York. The thirteen parts of the bill require state operations to be 100% renewable by 2030; exempt PILOTs from the Property Tax Cap calculations; assist local governments in the holding of fiscal security required by local permits; require the study of solar panel recycling options; direct the New York Power Authority (NYPA) to propose priority transmission projects; require the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to accept mitigation payments to protect endangered species; amend the public service law to alleviate unnecessary permitting delays; expand eligibility for escorting wind turbine superloads; clarify the eligibility of agrivoltaics projects for the agriculture property tax exemption; increase distributed solar, utility scale land based wind and solar, and energy storage goals in the Climate Law; create an energy storage sales tax exemption; make the existing solar equipment income tax credit refundable; and require compatibility for roof top solar installation on all new buildings.

In the six years leading up to 2023, over 120 renewable energy projects received contracts. Of those, 17 grid-scale renewable projects are operational and 18 are under construction. Transmission constraints, supply chain issues, interconnection delays, inefficient permitting, and drawn-out property tax negotiations are some of the numerous barriers preventing the construction and operation of renewable energy projects. This bill will alleviate some of these issues and allow a slew of clean energy projects to move more quickly and efficiently through the permitting, construction, and interconnection processes. The development of these projects is crucial to delivering clean, reliable electricity to New Yorkers during the grid transition.

New York State has nation-leading mandates on the development of renewable electricity projects, with the requirement that New York be powered by 70% renewable electricity by 2030 and 100% emissions-free power by 2040. To help meet these mandates, New York must accelerate the deployment of renewable electricity projects. The construction of renewable energy infrastructure will create thousands of quality jobs and bolster the clean energy workforce across New York State. The removal of the barriers addressed by REPA will attract private investment and show that New York is more prepared than ever to take advantage of clean energy opportunities and develop the renewable landscape needed to transition away from carbon-based fuels.

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>.