



**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF**  
**Part O of [S.8308-A/A.8808-A](#)**  
**Renewable Action Through Project Interconnection and Deployment Act (RAPID Act)**

March 2024

The Alliance for Clean Energy New York (ACE NY) supports Part O in the Governor’s proposed Transportation and Environment Budget Article VII Bill ([S.8308-A/A.8808-A](#)) and urges its immediate passage. The provisions of the Renewable Action Through Project Interconnection and Deployment Act (RAPID Act) would transfer the Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES) from the Department of State to the Department of Public Service, allow ORES to grant siting permits for transmission projects, and require the Public Service Commission to open a proceeding on the timely interconnection of distributed energy resources to the electrical grid.

This proposal will address the incredibly significant transmission constraints that are hampering renewables deployment. Absent investment in local and/or bulk transmission solutions items, new renewable projects could experience deliverability and curtailment problems, limiting their contributions to New York's ambitious climate targets. The transmission planning processes occurring at the Department of Public Service (DPS) and the NY Independent System Operators (NYISO) is reviewing how to bring the power from our developing offshore wind projects ashore, and it is systematically evaluating, identifying, and proposing transmission investment plans to remove transmission bottlenecks to achieve the Climate Law’s mandates. All these important transmission planning actions will result in additional projects that must be reviewed and permitted. It is important for the state to have a consistent and predictable review process with a timetable that will meet the need for the rapid deployment of renewables to address the climate crisis.

ACE NY supports the transfer of the ORES to the Department of Public Service and requests that the Legislature ensures that the Office is adequately staffed, given its expanded responsibilities to permit transmission projects in addition to renewable projects. ACE NY is pleased to see that the Part O proposal maintains the Farmland Protection Working Group which offers a mechanism for the State to assess, study and recommend ways to balance the need for reliable renewable energy and a robust agricultural industry in New York State. This Working Group, as well as NYSERDA’s Agricultural Technical Working Group, reveal the way we can all work together to tackle climate change, transition to a zero-emission future, and address land use concerns. Recognizing the win-win outcomes that co-location of solar projects sited on agricultural land offers, the Alliance for Clean Energy New York (ACE NY) recently released a first-of-its-kind report [Agrivoltaics in New York: Framing the Opportunity](#)<sup>1</sup>, that will help guide the increasingly important conversation in New York around solar energy project development on farmland.

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

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<sup>1</sup> <http://aceny.org/agrivoltaics>