

April 15, 2010

Hon. George Maziarz
Chair, Senate Energy Committee
947 Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12247

Thomas Congdon
Deputy Secretary for Energy
Executive Chamber
Albany, New York 12224

Hon. Darrel Aubertine
Vice-Chair, Senate Energy Committee
903 Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12247

Dear Colleagues:

As you know, the Power For Jobs and Economic Cost Savings Benefit Programs are scheduled to expire on May 15, 2010, exactly one month from today. Last year, when we passed legislation extending these important economic development initiatives, we jointly committed to conducting an open and collaborative process aimed at the development of a low-cost power solution for businesses and not-for-profit organizations in New York. We kept our word about the process. Now it is time to bring it to a conclusion and enact a new and permanent program.

The series of public hearings and roundtable discussions led by the Senate and Assembly Energy Committees, with cooperation from the Executive branch, provided us with a solid foundation of input from the public, state agencies and authorities, economic development officials and business leaders from all corners of the state. Private sector leaders, in particular, deserve our special thanks for their fair and open-minded participation at our forums across New York State. The valuable information gathered at these meetings helped to shape our collective views on how to best utilize the resources of the New York Power Authority.

As this public process played out, one common theme became clear -- businesses need stability and predictability before committing to the investments needed to grow jobs in our state. The uncertainty of the year to year extensions of the current programs provides little incentive for businesses to invest in their New York operations and limits the ability of the state to plan ahead, maximize resources and administer economic development incentives effectively.

The success of our deliberative and transparent approach is evidenced by the four remarkably similar legislative solutions that have been put forth by the Assembly, Senate and Executive. Each proposes the creation of a stable and permanent program that will provide New York State with the flexibility it needs to help companies effectively address their energy challenges in exchange for commitments to job growth, capital investment and energy efficiency.

This week, the hundreds of businesses and not-for-profit organizations that rely on the benefits provided through the Power For Jobs and Energy Cost Savings Benefit Programs will receive a letter informing them that their allotments will be discontinued next month

if we do not act. Last year, many of these entities were left in limbo when the programs lapsed for a few weeks before the extension was signed into law. There is no reason why that should occur again.

I stand ready to meet at any time to iron out the few remaining differences in our proposals so we can finally enact a permanent program that will provide the long term lower cost energy stability that businesses need to commit to New York. I look forward to working with you all to see this matter to its conclusion.

Sincerely,

Kevin A. Cahill
Chair of the Assembly Energy Committee

cc: Hon. David A. Paterson, Governor
Hon. Sheldon Silver, Speaker
Hon. John Sampson, Majority Conference Leader
Hon. Dierdre Scozzafava, Ranking Minority Member, Assembly Energy
Committee
Richard Kessel, President and CEO, New York Power Authority