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STATE OF NEW YORK
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MATTHEW J. SLATER
Assemblyman 94th District

February 5, 2026

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

We respectfully urge you to declare an Energy State of Emergency for New York State. In each region across New York, residents are facing historic and unsustainable increases in electricity costs which is threatening household affordability, small business viability, and the overall competitiveness of our state economy. This affordability crisis is caused by supply shortages, in short, we need more generation immediately.

Recent market data confirms what our constituents are experiencing on their monthly bills, that the electric system is under severe strain and wholesale energy prices are becoming dangerously volatile. On January 28, the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) real-time dashboard showed a dramatic spike in Day-Ahead Market energy prices in every region of the state, with several zones approaching or exceeding \$1,000 per megawatt-hour—levels far above historical norms which are certain to be passed on to consumers.

NYISO's recently released white paper on the drivers of rising electricity prices makes clear that these increases are not isolated events, but are the result of systemic pressures, including:

- Declining generation supply and plant retirements;
- Rising fuel costs and pipeline constraints; and
- Growing demand driven by electrification without adequate replacement of base load capacity.

NYISO warns that without sufficient, reliable and dispatchable generation, New York's grid will continue to experience price volatility, reliability risks, and affordability challenges. Without immediate action by your administration, these historic supply costs will be passed directly onto ratepayers, leaving families and small businesses as victims of an energy market that is increasingly unstable and out of control, after years of failed state energy policies. New Yorkers

should not be forced to absorb the consequences of a system that has lost balance, reliability, and affordability.

Recent Day-Ahead Market pricing data from NYISO further demonstrates that these price spikes are well above historical norms and are being driven by a combination of generator outages, constrained natural gas supply, extensive weather events, and shrinking in-state generation capacity. The data shows a clear upward trend in volatility since 2021, coinciding with the retirement of major base load resources and increased reliance on intermittent generation, such as wind and solar. Taken together, these indicators point to an undeniable conclusion: New York is in an energy emergency. And when needed, New York has responded to these kinds of emergencies. If you recall, in the 1980s, NYPA was tasked with building peaker plants to address energy shortages. The response? NYPA built 11 peaker plants in 18 months. We now need a similar build out as we did in the past to address a similar energy emergency.

Declaring an Energy State of Emergency would allow your administration to take immediate and decisive action, beginning with the following:

1. Placing safeguards on utility bills to protect consumers from extreme price spikes;
2. Suspending taxes, fees, and surcharges on energy bills to provide direct financial relief; and
3. Expediting the siting, permitting, and construction of base load generation, including firm, dispatchable resources that ensure reliability and stabilize prices.

Industry experts, grid operators, and market data all point to the same reality: New York cannot achieve reliability or affordability without a serious commitment to dispatchable and reliable base load power generation. Continued delays in permitting and development will only deepen volatility, raise costs, and expose New Yorkers to future reliability risks.

This is not a partisan issue; it is an economic and public interest imperative. Families should not be forced to choose between paying their electric bill and buying groceries. Small businesses should not be priced out of operating in New York. Employers should not be driven elsewhere by energy costs that are among the highest and most unstable in the nation. And we can provide immediate rate relief for homeowners. We are aware that there is a \$2.4 billion balance in dormant reserves within NYSERDA's Clean Energy Fund and possibly unused money from RGGI allowance sales. This is money that has already been collected from the ratepayers. We ask that NYSERDA work with the PSC and utilities to rebate this money back to the ratepayers.

We stand ready to work with you and your administration to address this crisis and restore balance, reliability, and affordability to New York's energy system. We respectfully request that you declare an Energy State of Emergency without delay and deploy the full authority of your office to protect New Yorkers.

Respectfully,



Matt Slater
New York State Assembly
94th District



Scott Bendett
New York State Assembly
107th District



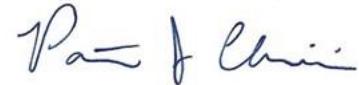
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New York State Assembly
98th District



Michael Durso
New York State Assembly
9th District



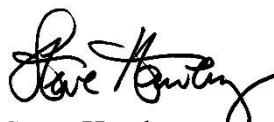
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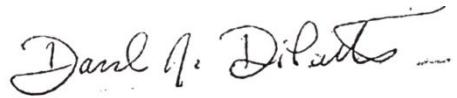
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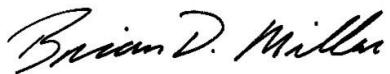
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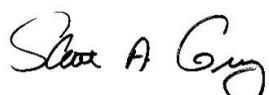
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