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[DATE]

Honorable Michelle L. Phillips
Secretary to the Commission
New York State Public Service Commission
Agency Building 3
Albany, NY 12223-1350

RE: 15-E-0302 – Proceeding on Motion of the Commission to Implement a Large-Scale Renewable Program and a Clean Energy Standard

Dear Secretary Phillips,

The Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE) is an important piece of New York’s clean energy future. This renewable energy project will help New York City break itself from the bonds of fossil fuel dependence, clean up our air, create thousands of jobs for New Yorkers, and protect our scenic areas along Lake Champlain and the Hudson River.

I am writing today to state my support for this project and the agreement between the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and the CHPE.

The CHPE will deliver approximately \$1.4 billion in new tax revenue to 73 localities and 59 school districts throughout the State over the first 25 years of the project. Albany County is expected to receive \$164 million in revenues from CHPE over the next 30 years if the agreement between CHPE and the Albany County Industrial Development Agency is approved, as I hope and expect it to be.

NYSERDA estimates CHPE will generate upwards of \$19 billion in benefits to New York State. Construction spending will create over 1,400 direct jobs for Laborers, Operating Engineers, IBEW, among other specialties. The project will also create approximately 3,200 indirect jobs.

The environmental benefits of CHPE are just as impressive. This permitted and ready-to-go project will help the State reach its goal of achieving 70% renewable energy by 2030 under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). It establishes a \$117 million trust to support existing programs that work to improve water quality in Lake Champlain, the Hudson River, and other bodies of water in New York. Best of all, the transmission lines will be fully buried, meaning New York’s stunning scenery will be preserved.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my enthusiastic support for the contract agreement between NYSERDA and CHPE.

Sincerely,

Daniel P. McCoy
County Executive
Albany County