I strongly support NYSERDA’s renewable energy procurement targets, and we need targets for siting of renewables. I strongly support building renewable energy capacity and shutting down gas-fired power plants while maintaining reliability and affordability. I believe in easing opposition to siting of renewables through public education and other methods. We must have targets to expand roof top and parking lot solar, and pair solar with electrification of low-income housing and opportunities for low-income participation in community renewable energy. The plan should also consider otherwise unusable areas (e.g., highway rights of way and brownfields) for siting of renewables, grid enhancements, and related infrastructure. It is important that local governments have more control through the use of siting tools. Innovative siting such as agrovolatics should be encouraged.

New York should set a year-by-year target for permitting new wind, solar, and battery storage. State agencies should fully leverage tools like community workforce agreements, community benefit agreements, first-source hiring, and project labor agreements to increase access to construction jobs and permanent jobs for disadvantaged communities; work with the capacity of people and develop agreements in partnership with frontline communities, industry, and organized labor; and further emphasize green worker-owned cooperatives. It is crucial that this point is stressed to continually call attention to the state to address barriers to renewable energy siting. All work to this end requires full staffing of relevant state agencies, including the Office of Renewable Energy Siting, engagement with Indigenous Nations in NY, and a comprehensive public education and information push on the benefits and opportunities of clean energy

Since New York State is situated near two of the Great Lakes, pumped storage hydropower should be considered in addition to battery storage technology. I support investment in R&D for long-term energy storage, grid technology, and novel zero-emissions electricity sources.

I wholeheartedly support the plan to zero out emissions from electricity generation by 2040 and the use of regulatory options and market mechanisms to carry out this plan while maintaining reliability and affordability. I am concerned that some proposals to address long-term storage and peak demand involve using processes that emit GHG’s or are produced with significant embedded carbon.

The recent events in Ukraine underscore the need for energy independence and fossil fuel independence. We must do our part to remove fossil fuels from the international geopolitical equation, and at the same time provide reliable, clean and affordable energy throughout New York State.