



Testimony of

Doreen M. Harris

President and CEO

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority

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Chair Krueger, Chair Weinstein, Chair Barrett, Chair Parker, Chair Glick, Chair Harckham and members of the Committees, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I am Doreen Harris, President and CEO of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). I am pleased to appear with you today to discuss how New York's course for a decarbonized economy is fully in motion, and the ways NYSERDA is expanding the State economy through implementing our mission to advance clean energy and addressing significant environmental, climate change issues to improve the quality of life in all New York communities.

Governor Hochul's commitment to our energy security and our environment is confirmed both through her leadership and her decisive action to meet the scale and urgency of the climate crisis while focused on growing our economy and protecting consumers. As we transition to a clean energy economy, the Governor proposed several key actions in her State of the State and budget that will safeguard New Yorkers from extreme weather, implement new programs that advance our ambitious clean energy goals, maintain and enhance the reliability of our energy systems, and increase the affordability of clean energy decisions, especially for our most economically vulnerable New Yorkers.

I would like to highlight some of the steps we are taking to implement these key actions as we support the State's transition to cleaner energy and technologies.

The Governor directed NYSERDA and DEC to advance a Cap-and-Invest Program to establish a declining cap on greenhouse gas emissions and provide funding resources to ensure a sustainable and affordable future for all New Yorkers. During

2023, we worked diligently with stakeholders and government partners to consider New York's Cap-and-Invest program design prioritizing the five core principles laid out by the Governor: affordability; investing in disadvantaged communities; creating jobs and preserving competitiveness; funding a sustainable future; and continuing climate leadership. Consistent with these core principles, the FY 2024 Enacted Budget established a Climate Action Fund, designed to directly defray costs of the program for New Yorkers every year. The New York Cap-and-Invest (NYCI) program will be designed to launch new investments in industries and technologies, consistent with the findings of the Climate Action Council Scoping Plan, while providing long-term benefits to everyday New Yorkers. This year, NYSERDA and DEC will be advancing the next phase to build out the NYCI program in a manner that focuses on affordability for New Yorkers to achieve the criteria the Governor has set.

As we look ahead, building the markets for renewable energy, energy storage, and clean transportation will provide new opportunities to fulfill the promise that investments in clean energy result in more jobs for New Yorkers. NYSERDA is advancing work toward the State's 70 percent by 2030 renewable electricity goal through the development of 9,000 megawatts of offshore wind, 3,000 megawatts of energy storage, and an increased goal of 10,000 megawatts of distributed solar, which all contribute to a zero-emission grid by 2040.

In the face of international renewable energy supply chain constraints and economy-wide inflation pressure, Governor Hochul announced a new 10-Point Action Plan in October 2023 to expand and support the growing large-scale renewable energy industry in New York State, ensuring that the State's place at the

forefront of renewable energy development is secured and achieved in the most cost-effective manner for consumers.

The plan outlines a comprehensive set of actions being taken to lay the foundation for a sustainable, resilient, and reliable future for all New Yorkers through the expansion of the State's growing clean energy economy and renewable energy sector. In addition, the Governor proposed the Renewable Action through Project Interconnection and Deployment (RAPID) Act in this year's Executive Budget, which will streamline the buildout of transmission infrastructure for a flexible, reliable, and clean energy grid, helping to expedite the integration of large-scale renewable projects.

We are also advancing our transition to a green economy by pursuing all opportunities to leverage federal funds made available through the Biden Administration. Our approach to federal funding is multipurposed: reducing costs to New Yorkers, achieving New York State's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act goals, ensuring benefits are delivered to underserved and historically marginalized communities, creating new jobs, reducing emissions, and pursuing affordability by developing infrastructure while driving health and economic benefits. NYSERDA alone is working to deliver nearly \$1.2 billion in federal funding through programs administered through federal agencies.

The leveraging of our State and federal strategies is most evident in our approach to building efficiency and decarbonization. The FY 2024 Enacted Budget provided NYSERDA with critical State funding to launch the first-of-its-kind \$200 million EmPower+ home retrofit program. Today, this program is helping low-income families retrofit their homes by adding insulation, installing energy efficient

appliances, and switching from inefficient and polluting heating systems to clean, efficient electric alternatives, or preparing the home to do so with needed upgrades. To further advance this work, in December 2023, NYSERDA was one of the first states in the country to submit its partial-scope application to the Department of Energy (DOE) for the first phase of deployment of Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates program funding as a way to leverage the impact of EmPower+. In this initial phase, NYSERDA has proposed to introduce the Inflation Reduction Act rebates in combination with the EmPower+ program serving low- and moderate-income homeowners.

In recent years, the NY-Sun program, which makes solar more accessible, has positioned New York State as the leading community solar market in the nation, and one of the national leaders in distributed solar development, overall. This year, we will expand New York's successful Solar for All Program through expanded authorization by the Public Service Commission and bolstered through our application to DOE for \$400 million in funding.

In New York, transportation accounts for more than three-quarters of the petroleum used and nearly 30 percent of greenhouse gases generated. To continue the movement to 100 percent zero emission vehicles, the Governor recently announced more than \$14 million in additional funding for the Drive Clean Rebate Program to help consumers save on the purchase of electric vehicles (EVs). There are now nearly 200,000 EVs on the road in New York State – up from 24,000 just six years ago – and more than 13,000 EV charging stations installed statewide. With the passage of the Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act, \$500 million will be distributed to school districts to ensure they can begin the transition to zero emission school bus fleets.

In addition, growing our clean energy economy with family sustaining jobs is central to our measurement of success. New York already supports more than 171,000 clean energy jobs across the State, and we stand to see hundreds of thousands of jobs created through continued pursuit of renewable energy and energy efficiency. But we cannot reach our clean energy goals without the trained professional workforce required to translate these goals into action. That is why the Governor's budget proposal will expand the Office of Just Energy Transition to ensure union labor builds our new energy infrastructure, and hires people from disadvantaged communities to expand the impact that careers in clean energy can provide to all New Yorkers.

NYSERDA's efforts are supporting career pathway programs that provide education, training, and services to help place new workers in clean energy occupations where demand for workers is growing daily. NYSERDA's inclusive efforts also prioritize training programs for the State's most underserved populations – low-income individuals, veterans, disabled workers, single parents, formerly incarcerated persons, and individuals from disadvantaged communities, and will also help integrate displaced workers into the clean energy industry. These workforce efforts further demonstrate the effect our clean energy agenda will have on our people, our businesses, our economy, as well as a demonstration to the world of New York's leadership in protecting our environment.

This concludes my opening remarks.