



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Thomas F. O'Mara

## **Senator O'Mara's weekly column 'From the Capitol' -- for the week of July 14, 2025 -- 'NYS can't wait on relief from clean energy mandates'**

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Senator O'Mara offers his weekly perspective on many of the key challenges and issues facing the Legislature, as well as on legislative actions, local initiatives, state programs and policies, and more. Stop back every Monday for Senator O'Mara's latest column...

This week, "NYS can't wait on relief from clean energy mandates"

# Weekly Column from

***for the week of July 14, 2025***

## **“NYS can’t wait on relief from clean energy mandates”**

In a letter to Governor Hochul late last week, our Senate **Republican** Minority Conference sought to keep up the pressure on the governor to recognize the dire state of New York’s energy future.

Our latest letter reinforces what Senate Republicans have been warning since Albany **Democrats** majorities enacted the “Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act” in 2019: the goals and timelines set forth in this ongoing strategy of clean energy mandates ignore affordability, feasibility, and reliability. Remember that these mandates call for electric vehicles, electric school buses, electric buildings, the repeal of the “100-foot rule,” and a Cap-and-Invest program that clearly risks overloading New York’s electric grid.

“The economic toll of the CLCPA implementation is becoming untenable,” our letter states. “A conservative estimate places the total cost of the law’s implementation at \$340 billion. Electricity rates in New York are now 48% higher than the national average and 35% higher than in neighboring Pennsylvania. Alarming, nearly 20% of a typical utility bill now consists of government-imposed charges, a figure likely to rise further (because of the Albany **Democrats** majorities CLCPA). These realities point to a (CLCPA) transition plan that is not only unsustainable but one that risks creating an economic and energy disaster. We believe a pause is essential - one that allows for reassessment, thoughtful adjustment, and a renewed commitment to an energy policy that balances environmental responsibility with reliability and affordability.”

We are calling on the governor to convene a comprehensive review process on the CLCPA, one that includes what should have been a guidepost from the start: a comprehensive, straightforward, transparent cost-benefit analysis. There’s no time to wait. It has become increasingly clear that the current goals and timelines set forth in CLCPA cannot be met, a reality that even the governor now admits.

“We cannot accomplish what those (CLCPA) objectives were back in before I became governor in a time frame that’s not going to hurt ratepayers. So, we’re slowing things down,” the governor said recently.

The head of the New York State Energy and Research Development Authority (NYSERDA) added, “It is a change. But it’s an important one because of what we are going for – a reliable grid. And we need to look at that in a clear-eyed manner as to how to achieve it.”

Many of us could not agree more. Approaching this challenge in a “clear-eyed manner” is long overdue. It’s what we’ve been calling for time and again over the past six years. The key now will be not to wait. NYSERDA plans on issuing a new draft energy plan this summer and seeking public comment on it throughout the fall. It’s a critical back to the

Our Senate **Republicans** Minority Conference has long put forth commonsense alternatives to delay the CLCPA mandates while providing relief to ratepayers, addressing the reliability of the grid, and, especially now, ensuring a diverse energy portfolio that will keep energy options affordable and accessible for the long term.

"We further advocate for an "all-of-the-above" energy policy that does not rely solely on wind and solar but also embraces dependable energy sources," we wrote last week to the governor. "We encourage your administration to continue to push forward with nuclear energy development but let the private sector take the lead. At the same time, we respectfully ask you to reconsider your administration's stance toward natural gas, a critical and dependable energy source for millions of New Yorkers. Natural gas must remain part of our diverse and resilient energy mix. This is a pivotal moment for our state's energy future. We urge you to act now to protect the stability of our energy grid and the economic well-being of all New Yorkers."

Stay tuned.

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