

March 31, 2025

Honorable Thomas P. DiNapoli New York State Comptroller 110 State Street Albany, NY 12236

## Comptroller DiNapoli:

We are writing in response to the recent letter from New York State Senate Democrats urging you to divest shares of Tesla Inc. from the New York State pension fund. We strongly disagree with their request and urge you not to divest from Tesla, as doing so would be both a financial and policy mistake.

Tesla has been one of the most successful companies of the 21st century. Since its initial public offering (IPO) in 2010 at \$17 per share, Tesla's stock has risen to \$250 per share, delivering an impressive 1,500% return. Over the past five years, the stock has grown by nearly 700%. Including Tesla in the State's pension fund has benefitted over one million pension holders.

The Senate Democrats point to a 28% drop in Tesla's stock price in February as a reason to divest. However, if fluctuations in stock price were a basis for divestment, the pension fund would cease to exist.

While we recognize that catering to certain political factions may be tempting, as Comptroller, your fiduciary responsibility is to act in the best interest of the pension fund's beneficiaries, not to engage in political posturing. Divesting from Tesla stock would be a disservice to the millions of New Yorkers who depend on the pension fund.

Additionally, we find it ironic that some of the same voices calling for divestment of Tesla stock also frame climate change as an existential threat to humanity while seeking to divest from the world's largest electric vehicle maker.

Playing politics is no way to manage a pension fund that more than a million New Yorkers depend on.

We strongly urge you to reject the politically motivated push to divest Tesla from the New York State pension fund. The long-term financial health of the fund and the interests of its beneficiaries should remain the top priority.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Ortt Senate Minority Leader 62nd District

Senator Andrew Lanza 24th District Senator Peter Oberacker 51st District

Senator Dean Murray 3rd District

Senator Steve Rhoads 5th District Senator Anthony Palumbo 1st District

Senator Joseph Griffo

53rd District

Senator Alexis Weik 8th District

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Senator Mario Mattera 2nd District

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Senator George Borrello 57th District

Leoye M Boullo

Senator Daniel G. Stec 45th District

Senator Steve Chan 17th District

Senator Mark Walczyk 49th District

Senator Tom O'Mara 58th District