

**Testimony of Advanced Energy United
Submitted for Hearing on Energy and Environment
January 28, 2026**

Thank you, Chairs Krueger and Pretlow and members of the committee, for the opportunity to provide testimony on the budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. My name is Kristina Persaud, Senior Principal with Advanced Energy United, a national trade association representing over 100 clean energy businesses dedicated to advancing a sustainable, affordable, and reliable energy future, an industry that employs 3.2 million U.S. workers, including 157,000 New Yorkers.

Supporting New York’s Energy Goals

Now more than ever, New Yorkers need leadership from Albany on energy issues. At this moment of federal headwinds to our grid system, we need strong state leadership and determined action to speed development and implement flexible solutions that will reduce strain on the electricity system and provide relief to ratepayers. We respectfully submit the following recommendations for inclusion in the State Budget, which to advance energy, affordability, and reliability:

1. Prevent Overspending to Protect Long-Term Affordability

Currently, gas and electric systems are planned separately within both the utilities and the Commission even though the systems interface. The lack of coordination has led to the overbuilding of energy infrastructure which has caused overspending, stranded assets, and missed opportunities for least-cost solutions. United recommends that the Legislature direct the Public Service Commission to establish an Integrated Energy System Planning (S.5995) framework that aligns electric and gas planning processes, incorporates distributed energy resources and demand-side solutions, and prioritizes affordability. An integrated planning process will ensure that infrastructure investments necessary expenses, maximize benefits to consumers, and enhance system reliability and resilience.

2. Optimize Energy Infrastructure to Ensure Cost-Effective Reliability

New York’s electric transmission system must evolve to meet increasing demand, integrate new renewable generation, and deliver affordable power to consumers. While building new transmission lines is time-consuming and costly, Advanced Transmission Technologies (ATTs) unlock significant near-term capacity on the existing grid, accelerating clean energy deployment and lowering costs without requiring new, costly infrastructure. United urges the Legislature to include statutory direction for the Public Service Commission to require the cost-benefit analysis of the deployment of ATTs in rate cases (A.8934/S.2704). These technologies will help reduce congestion, defer or avoid major capital investments, and deliver more reliable service to New Yorkers at a time when energy bills are increasing, and reliability margins are shrinking.

3. Re-fund the Sustainable Future Program

Continued funding is critical for New York's clean energy transition while ensuring affordability for New Yorkers long-term. This program can create durable change in initiatives such as energy efficiency, building electrification, and renewable energy deployment that create a much-needed off-ramp for New York families to avoid upwardly spiraling energy costs.

The Sustainable Future Program will:

- Provide necessary funding for decarbonization projects and clean energy technologies.
- Drive significant cost-savings, economic benefits, including job creation and billions in economic activities.
- Promote equitable outcomes by targeting investments in disadvantaged communities for which these projects are otherwise out of reach.

4. Expanding Support for Energy Storage

Energy storage is crucial for grid reliability and maximizing the use of renewable energy. We recommend expanding state tax exemptions to commercial-scale energy storage systems, which remain ineligible for the incentives available to residential and solar installations. This policy change will:

- Accelerate progress toward the Public Service Commission's 6GW energy storage target by 2030.
- Enable greater participation by businesses in the clean energy transition.

Conclusion

By advancing these initiatives, New York will accelerate its clean energy goals and deliver significant economic benefits for all New Yorkers. Advanced Energy United appreciates the opportunity to share these recommendations and looks forward to partnering with the Legislature to secure a clean, affordable, and resilient energy future.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

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