

NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE

ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247



SENATOR MARK C. WALCZYK
49TH SENATE DISTRICT

October 6, 2025

State Energy Plan Comments
NYSERDA
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399

Dear NYSERDA Board,

Your Draft State Energy Plan is foolhardy.

Now more than ever, New York needs affordable, reliable, and accessible energy. The Draft Plan should address the requirements and concerns of New York's residents and businesses in a comprehensive manner. It should prioritize an "all of the above" energy strategy, employing nuclear energy, natural gas, fossil fuels, "renewables," and consumer choice. Instead, your Draft Plan picks winners and losers, drives up costs for ratepayers, hampers business growth in the state, further stagnates housing growth, and forces young people to leave for more affordable places to live.

According to a June poll from Natural Allies for a Clean Energy Future, 82% of New Yorkers feel that their electric bills are too high. They are right: from June 2019 to June 2025, monthly residential retail energy prices have jumped by 43%. The reason for this is the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), which has disincentivized fuel sources like nuclear and natural gas and taken more energy offline than it has put online. As a direct result of this, businesses with high energy consumption may be forced to look out of state for their projects. If you don't believe me, ask a local Industrial Development Agency (IDA) about attracting energy-intensive manufacturers to their area. This plan may hurt young people the most. They want to buy homes in our state but the all-electric building mandate increases new home costs by up to \$35,000 and the electric bills are nearly as high as the mortgage payment in many areas I represent.

Since 2019, the State of New York has actually taken more power production offline than we've added. NYS Energy Research and Development Authority is failing the energy "Development" portion of your title. Demand for power is increasing in our state and "renewables" are not keeping pace despite expedited approvals, ignoring good environmental stewardship practices, and massive subsidies and credits. The electric bills in NY aren't 40% higher than our neighbors in Pennsylvania because of greedy utilities or federal policies. The plan you've presented ignores the obvious and doubles down on failing energy policies.

Please read NYSERDA's mission statement, vision statement, and promise to New Yorkers.

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NYS Comptroller Tom DiNapoli said last year the state's energy plan is going to cost New Yorkers \$340 Billion. I'd shudder to think what that price tag looks like now – some analysts are calculating an additional \$500/mo on the average household energy bill. I want to be very direct: New Yorkers cannot afford what you're proposing.

And, your plan is actually dangerous. The New York State Independent Systems Operator (NYISO) is the not-for-profit corporation which operates New York's bulk electricity grid, administers the state's wholesale electricity markets, and provides comprehensive reliability planning for the state's bulk electricity system. They aren't partisan. They aren't political. I'm sure you've read the "NYISO Power Trends 2025." They warn about the "reliability margins" and say we need to double the power we're making now to avoid blackouts in the next 5 years.

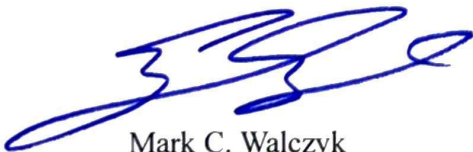
Here's what your plan needs to include:

- Natural Gas needs to be maintained and responsibly expanded.
- Nuclear power needs to be built immediately.
- Utilities need to be held to account and incentivized toward efficiency.
- Hydro facilities need upgraded turbines and automation.
- Line upgrades need to happen at the home, the street, and the community level before major transmission upgrades.
- More generation in our state needs to come online immediately.
- Full stop on taxes, fees, system benefit charges, and baked-in govt programs on electric bills.

If you work to actually develop energy production (as the title of your authority requires), you'll succeed in driving down the cost of electricity. The market drivers will actually aid your efforts to see more electrification at the user level. If you continue on the same failed path you're on, New Yorkers will suffer, your vision will be unfulfilled, your mission failed, and your promise to all of us, broken.

I urge you to take these comments into consideration, change course, and work to create a sustainable, reasonable State Energy Plan. Please reach out to my office if you would like to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,



Mark C. Walczyk
Senator
New York SD-49

MCW/jc