



February 1, 2022

Testimony Re: 2022-2023 Executive Budget Proposal

The New York State Laborers Employment Cooperation and Education Trust (NYS LECET) is a labor management organization representing over 40,000 members, 24 local unions and 1,500 affiliated contractors. NYS LECET aggressively advocates for wage and safety standards for our members, raising the floor for both union and nonunion construction workers.

NYS LECET extends thanks to Chairs Krueger, Weinstein, Kaminsky, Engelbright and all members present for the opportunity to provide written testimony on the Executive budget proposals relating to environmental conservation. New York must take aggressive action to reach the goals of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), while also ensuring the jobs created in the green economy include family-sustaining wages and benefits.

NYS LECET commends the inclusion of provisions that will assist the state in reaching a zero emissions future, yet firmly believes that such provisions must include labor protections for the workforce tasked with performing green jobs. The proposed extension of the brownfield remediation tax credit and the addition of \$1 billion to the Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Bond Act must include prevailing wage and/or project labor agreement requirements in order to maximize the potential for economic development while contributing to the creation of lifelong careers in the renewable energy sector. Additionally, as solar and wind development is expanded, the state has an opportunity to protect a vulnerable workforce through the attachment of labor requirements on small scale solar projects. Solar projects above 1 megawatt must require the payment of prevailing wages to the tradespersons tasked with doing the work. The attachment of labor standards to the emerging green energy sector spurs economic development while promoting the creation of career-track jobs; creating a better New York for all.

In addition to requiring wage and other labor protections, the budget must prioritize and foster the development of programs related to hydrogen and zero-emissions energy systems. As the state looks toward a clean energy future, zero-emissions energy systems must be considered to reach the goals of the CLCPA. The combination of renewable and zero-emissions energy will assist the state in reaching its ambitious climate goals while creating good jobs for workers displaced as a result of the phase-out of fossil fuels.

Thank you for your attention to, and consideration of these important topics related to the FY 2022-2023 state budget. Should you have further questions or concerns, please contact Amanda Jensen, amanda.nyslecet@gmail.com.