

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



ELAINE PHILLIPS
SENATOR
7TH DISTRICT

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May 9, 2017

Hon. Andrew Cuomo
Governor
Executive Chamber
The Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I am writing to express my strong concerns about the zero carbon renewable energy credits authorized recently by the state's Public Service Commission. While I support the goal of reducing our reliance on dirty fossil fuels, adoption of this standard is resulting in unexpected and higher utility bills for the Long Island families, businesses and local communities I represent.

By one analysis, school districts, local governments and public authorities like the MTA will pay tens of millions of dollars more for electricity. Schools districts that I represent will face as much as \$6 million in higher bills to support nuclear power generators that don't even service our area. These amounts are on top of electric utility rates that are already among the highest in the nation.

As troubling, the PSC has specifically ordered that these charges remain hidden on consumers' electric bills.

I urge you to exempt all of Long Island from this mandate. Our already struggling Long Island homeowners and businesses will be significantly and negatively impacted, as well as our local economy. The PSC also should exempt local governments, schools, agencies and authorities so that taxpayers aren't billed twice—through their own electric bills and by the resulting higher taxes, rates and fares that will be needed to pay these extra costs.

The PSC also must take steps to increase on-bill transparency, as well as ensuring that ratepayers, taxpayers and the public are fully informed of ways that revenues from this program are invested to promote cleaner energy and a better environment.

I would welcome the opportunity to work with you to attain these goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Elaine Phillips'.

Elaine R. Phillips
Senator, 7th District