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CHRISTOPHER L. JACOBS
SENATOR, 60TH DISTRICT

November 19, 2019

Honorable Thomas P. DiNapoli
New York State Comptroller
110 State Street
Albany, New York 12207

Dear Comptroller DiNapoli:

I am writing to request that your office conduct a comprehensive audit of all subsidies and programs utilized by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to incentivize the placement and construction of wind and solar projects in New York State.

Your office is aware that literally billions of dollars have been committed or expended in an effort to attract these types of renewable energy projects to New York State. Despite the massive amounts of public dollars being used to lure these development projects, very little appears to be known about the individual companies being solicited, or projects being agreed to. This lack of information is compounded by even less information made available relative to the return to New York State and its taxpayers associated with these sizeable investments.

I am confident you share the opinion that a high degree of accountability exists with the commitment of public dollars. How much money has been allocated or awarded by NYSERDA wind and solar incentive programs to renewable energy projects? Did these projects meet their required job and investment thresholds? Are they producing the amounts of energy that they represented they would and where and how is that energy being utilized? Are these projects reducing New York State's utility costs or providing any financial relief to commercial and residential ratepayers? These are all important questions that need to be answered, and I believe could be addressed by an audit from your office.

This past January alone, the Governor and NYSERDA announced that they were committing \$1.5 billion to support twenty large-scale wind and solar projects. Projects of this magnitude are accompanied by a multitude of serious environmental, economic development, and in many cases, homeland security issues. Many of my constituents have serious reservations over the inability of potential projects to provide the studies or data necessary to adequately



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address these concerns. Our collective sensitivity is heightened by a current lack of local input into the siting process. While it may not speak to all of the questions raised in this letter, a State Comptroller's audit would at least provide some comfort that someone in a statewide office is listening and attempting to address their concerns where literally billions of dollars are at stake.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I am happy to be of assistance should you need the support of the legislature in this matter, and I look forward to favorable reply.

Sincerely,



Chris Jacobs
New York State Senator
60th District