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MENTAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES
SELECT COMMITTEE ON
STATE-NATIVE AMERICAN RELATIONS

**THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK**



**ROBERT G. ORTT
SENATOR, 62ND DISTRICT**

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ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
(518) 455-2024

DISTRICT OFFICE:
175 WALNUT STREET, SUITE 6
LOCKPORT, NEW YORK 14094
(716) 434-0680

November 21, 2019

Thomas DiNapoli, Comptroller
110 State Street
Albany, NY 12236

Dear Comptroller DiNapoli:

We write to you today to call your attention to the costs associated with the state's planned subsidies for the building and operation of wind farms off of Long Island. In particular, I am alarmed by the disparate projections and a general lack of transparency surrounding massive projected costs to taxpayers. For these reasons, we would ask you to conduct an audit of the bid and accurately assess the costs to New York taxpayers.

The New York State Energy Research and Development Agency (NYSERDA) said in a recent filing that the subsidy awarded had "values" totaling \$2.2 billion. However, an analysis by the non-partisan Empire Center for Public Policy puts the inflation-adjusted subsidies--the actual cost to ratepayers--at more than \$6 billion.

A reported difference of that magnitude causes concern for ratepayers and for us as elected officials and stewards of government. The fact that New York ratepayers will bear these costs without a firm financial estimate is especially alarming. Considering these inconsistent financial projections by state policymakers and agencies, we believe it is imperative that your office help determine an accurate assessment of the costs to taxpayers through an independent fiscal audit.

Your office has the objectivity and expertise to help determine the figures behind the subsidies as well as their long-term cost to New Yorkers. We hope that you will help us provide the necessary transparency to the millions of New Yorkers who will be dramatically impacted by this policy. Thank you for your time and please feel free to contact me at (716) 434-0680.

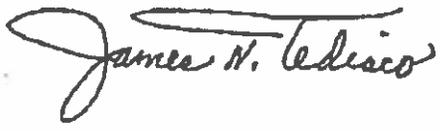
Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Robert G. Ort in black ink.

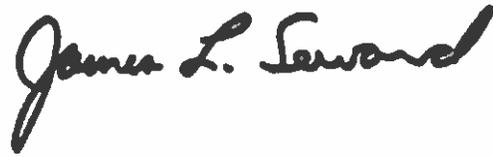
Senator Rob Ort
62nd Senate District

Handwritten signature of Daphne V. Jordan in black ink.

Senator Daphne Jordan
43rd Senate District



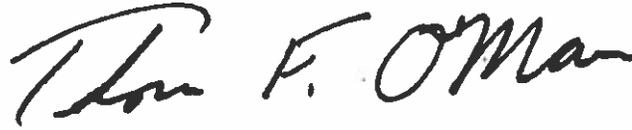
Senator James Tedisco
49th Senate District



Senator James Seward
51st Senate District



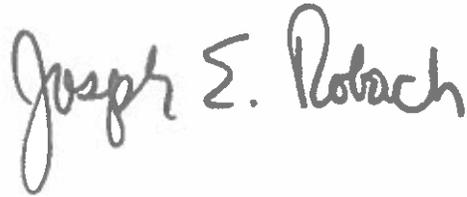
Senator Fred Akshar
52nd Senate District



Senator Thomas O'Mara
58th Senate District



Senator Joseph Griffo
47th Senate District



Senator Joseph Robach
56th Senate District