

Testimony of Michael Hernandez, Rewiring America on the Executive Budget Proposal

My name is Michael Hernandez, and I am speaking on behalf of Rewiring America as the organization's New York Policy Director. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the Executive Budget proposal.

EMPOWER PLUS PROGRAM

Rewiring America supports the Executive's proposal to provide state funding to NYSERDA's Empower Plus Program for expenses, loans, grants, and other costs related to Clean Energy Projects. We particularly support such funds being used to provide such funding to low-income energy efficiency, heating, and cooling. We would encourage the legislature to provide more funding than the \$200 million proposed. There are significant investments needed to retrofit existing homes for electrification and this will be particularly needed in low-income houses.

ENERGY AFFORDABILITY PROGRAM

Rewiring America supports the Executive's proposal to provide state funding to the Department of Public Services program to provide an energy affordability guarantee to participating residential customers in the Empower Plus Program administered by NYSERDA. Ensuring that low-income residents that retrofit their homes are guaranteed an affordable electric bill after the conversion from fossil fuels is vital. We would encourage the legislature to provide more funding than the \$200 million the executive is proposing. We must ensure that the electrification of our energy infrastructure is equitable and that low-income households can benefit from

electrification without being overburdened with a high electricity bill compared to their household income.

TED PART WW

Rewiring America supports the Executive's proposal to transition new and existing buildings away from dirty fossil fuels, to clean renewable electricity. We support such transitions happening as quickly as possible and include as many building types in the transition as possible. The benchmarking and grading of buildings are incredibly also important and we encourage the legislature to support the proposal.

TED PART AAA

Rewiring America supports the Executive's Cap-and-Invest proposal. The state must support the transition away from fossil fuels to electrification and not rely solely on ratepayers today for the cost of this transition. This will keep energy costs affordable and hold those responsible for emitting greenhouse gas for paying for the transition.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am happy to answer any follow-up questions you may have.