



June 14, 2010

The Hon. Sheldon Silver
Speaker of the NYS Assembly
LOB 932
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Speaker Silver;

As you may be aware, economic development on Long Island has evolved into a situation where it is difficult to attract new businesses here and many of our efforts are aimed at retaining the businesses we have here. There are many factors for this including the high cost of housing that makes it difficult for employers to attract employees, government rules and regulations that make it more difficult to do business in this State and not the least of which is the high cost of energy.

Long Island ratepayers are subjected to the fourth highest energy costs in the country. It is projected that in 20 years, peak consumption on the Island will be a third higher than it is today. The Long Island Association is a business organization with over 5,000 members and we are well aware that these energy costs are a major concern if our member organizations are to grow and prosper here.

It is for this reason we are writing to strongly urge you to support the Energize NY Power Program (Governors Program Bill 254 RR/S 8065). Thirty-five companies on Long Island, including some of our largest such as Computer Associates benefit from being a part of this program. One of the difficulties with the current program is the need to renew the Power For Jobs contract on an annual basis. The proposed legislation would provide for longer-term contracts providing more predictability for the companies participating in the program.

The legislation would also authorize the redeployment of NYPA hydropower to economic development uses while establishing a residential rate mitigation fund to offset adverse impact on ratepayers. The Long Island Association has long advocated for the availability of cheaper hydropower energy as an initiative to lower the cost of doing business on Long Island. It would go a long way in reducing the costs of doing business on Long Island and help preserve jobs and badly need tax revenues for the State.

It is for these reasons, we strongly encourage you to support this critical legislation on behalf of the Long Island business community.

Sincerely,



Daniel R. Perkins
Vice President of Government Affairs
Committee
Long Island Association



Harry Davitian
Chairman, Energy & Environment
Long Island Association

Cc: Governor David A. Paterson
Sen. John Sampson
Assemblyman Robert K. Sweeney