

S. 7027/A. 8096 (Parker/Cusick)

AN ACT in relation to maintaining the continued viability of the state's existing large-scale, renewable energy resources

The New York League of Conservation Voters supports S. 7027/A. 8096 (Parker/Cusick), which would amend the competitive Tier 2 program within the Clean Energy Standard and ensure that the state's existing renewable resources are maintained and continue to contribute to the state's renewable energy goals.

New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), requires that by 2030, 70% of electricity consumed in the state will come from renewable resources, and 100% of such electricity be zero-emission by 2040. In 2019, approximately 27 percent of the state's electricity was supplied by renewable resources. In 2019 NYSERDA under the direction of the Governor established the competitive Tier 2 program, with the intention of incentivising the generation of clean energy. However, the first solicitation of Tier 2 resulted in just 14 MW being awarded out of 1,000 MW available, even as more and more of our legacy renewable energy is being sold out of state. It is clear that NYSERDA's competitive Tier 2 program needs to be modified to ensure the state is reaching its goals set under the CLCPA.

S. 7027/A. 8096 would make significant modifications to the program, such as extending the lifespan of Tier 2 through at least 2030 and setting the maximum bid price to equal to 75% of NYSERDA's Tier 1 REC sale price set under the most recent Renewable Energy Standard. This would mean that the price of preserving existing renewables is less than the price of developing new renewables. This would ensure that legacy renewables can continue to operate in New York's wholesale electricity market and help the state achieve the goals of the CLCPA.

For these reasons, the New York League of Conservation Voters urges passage of S. 7027/A. 8096.

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