A. 4866-A/S. 2935-B (Kelles/Parker)

AN ACT to Enact the “Just Energy Transition Act”

The New York League of Conservation Voters supports A. 4866-A/S. 2935-B (Kelles/Parker), the “Just Energy Transition Act,” which would direct the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to develop a study of competitive options for phasing out and redeveloping New York State’s most-polluting fossil fuel facilities by 2030 while still ensuring resource adequacy and grid reliability. It would further direct the Department of Public Service (DPS) and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to develop initiatives to advance the recommendations made by this study.

A core principle of implementing the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) is that we should phase out the most-polluting facilities first, with a special emphasis on disadvantaged communities that are overburdened by air pollution. The Just Energy Transition Act puts this principle into action by requiring NYSERDA to make recommendations for how to phase out the oldest and most-polluting fossil fuel facilities in the state, while also requiring DPS to issue its order to implement these recommendations, including a competitive procurement process to protect ratepayers, no later than one hundred eighty days after this bill takes effect. This time frame will allow us to phase out the dirtiest fossil fuel power plants by 2030, delivering on the promises of the CLCPA, without risking grid reliability.

A. 4866-A/S. 2935-B will advance the goals of the CLCPA while also providing substantial public health benefits to disadvantaged communities. For these reasons, the New York League of Conservation Voters strongly urges passage of A. 4866-A/S. 2935-B.

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