



SUPPORT

A.6838 /S.2995 (Galef/Harckham)

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to providing an exemption from requirements for the alienation of parkland for renewable energy generating projects.

The New York League of Conservation Voters supports A.6838 /S.2995 (Galef/Harckham), which would provides an exemption from requirements for the alienation of parkland for renewable energy generating projects with a generating capacity not exceeding two megawatts and which are located above real property currently used for vehicle parking.

Currently, municipalities must request state legislation to alienate parkland, including parking lots that are within a park's borders. In order to achieve the goals of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), New York must decarbonize surface transportation and have 100% clean electricity by 2050. Solar canopies located above parking spaces can both generate renewable electricity and, in some cases, power electric vehicle charging stations, thereby advancing two important goals of the CLCPA simultaneously. There is no justifiable policy reason for parking lots at public parks to require a full alienation of air rights process in order to install solar canopies.

A. 6838/S. 2995 would allow solar energy projects under 2 megawatts, located directly above real property which is currently being used for vehicle parking, to bypass the parkland alienation process, which would result in more solar canopies being installed statewide.

For these reasons, the New York League of Conservation Voters urges passage of A. 6838/S. 2995.

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