Memorandum of Support

S.2522 (Maziarz, et al.)/ A.5060 (Englebright, et al.)

Summary
This bill establishes a 10-year solar incentive program (2014-2023) that will provide long-term certainty for the solar industry to commit private investment and bring a robust NY solar industry to scale.

Explanation
New York State has all the potential to be a world leader in photovoltaic production and solar generation, but for years has lagged behind states like Massachusetts and New Jersey. Currently, NY’s electrical power generation infrastructure is at a crossroads and aging fossil fuel plants are retiring under the temporary market strain of cheap natural gas. The window of opportunity to build a renewable energy economy in New York is here, but will not remain open for long. Plans to repower our failing electrical generation infrastructure with a new line of natural gas fire power plants could commit New York to 40 more years of failed energy policy. New York has the opportunity to be one of the first states to move beyond fossil fuels with clean, renewable energy sources. But in recent years, the short-term nature of the state’s commitment renewable energy has suppressed the development of solar in New York.

S.2522 would secure a 10-year/1.5 billion dollar commitment to solar through the “NY Sun” program and provide the long-term certainty needed to signal major private investment in scalable solar development. The promise of a robust solar program through 2023 will attract in-state investments, create additional jobs in all stages of the supply-chain and establish a tax credit for companies that invest in manufacturing or research and development related to solar PV components or energy storage.

Extending NY-Sun an additional 10 years will build 2,200 MW of solar – that’s enough clean, reliable electricity to power 400,000 New York homes, create thousands of new local jobs in New York, save rate payers billions by reducing the need to fire up our dirtiest and most expensive fossil power plants and spur millions of dollars of investment in the state's emerging clean energy economy. Transitioning from dirty fuels like coal and gas to renewable energy like solar will cut harmful pollution that makes our kids sick and reduce the threat of disastrous extreme weather like Sandy. New York can be the nation’s leader in clean energy jobs – 21st century energy solutions that will create more good-paying, homegrown jobs where we need them the most. Jumpstarting the solar industry is a great place to start.

Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter Urges Your Support Of S.2522/ A.5060