Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Executive Chamber
Capitol Building
Albany, N.Y. 12224

RE: A.288 Paulin / S.3745 Griffo

Dear Governor Cuomo,

The Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter urges you to sign A.288 / S.3745, which will amend the public service law to establish a mandatory electric vehicle charging tariff for New York utilities. Such a tariff will provide greater incentives for the ownership of electric vehicles and encourage grid-responsible charging times. As you well know, thanks to the proactive work of your administration, New York is a member of the eight-state Zero Emission Vehicle Memorandum of Understanding ("ZEV MOU"), an agreement designed to achieve a collective goal of 3.3 million EVs on the road by 2025. New York’s own Charge NY program, that you established in 2013, has set a statewide goal of 3,000 charging stations and 40,000 electric vehicles on the road by 2018. To meet our share of the eight-state ZEV commitment, New York needs to have upwards of 230,000 EVs on the road by 2020 and more than 850,000 by 2025. With an approximate 20,000 electric vehicles on the road now, New York has a long way to go to achieving these goals.

New York State took a big step forward in approving NY’s first consumer electric vehicle rebate program in the 2016-17 Budget. And as more New York car buyers take advantage of the new $2,000 rebate, there will more demand for residential and workplace charging of those vehicles. In addition, thanks to your leadership, New York would be investing in 500 new workplace EV charging stations and 69 new fast charging stations along the NYS Thruway. A.288 will compliment these new state initiatives nicely by encouraging grid-responsible charging of electric vehicles. The bill will mandate that New York’s utilities develop pricing structures that will incentivize charging during periods when a significant portion of renewable energy is flowing into the grid, thereby helping New York meet its Clean Energy Standard goals of a 40% reduction in GHG emissions and 50% renewable electricity generation by 2030.

Along with helping to achieve these goals, off-peak charging of electric vehicles also has a number of economic and environmental benefits. As a recent NYSEsDA EV study found, controlled charging of EVs could save ratepayers up to $46 million annually in reduced generating and capacity costs and an additional $103 million in reduced infrastructure upgrade costs over the next 15 years. Furthermore, electrifying New York’s vehicle fleet will also help reduce conventional, dangerous fossil-fuel tailpipe pollutants, which disproportionately harm the most vulnerable members of our society, including children, the elderly and low-income families.

Under the provisions of the bill, the investor-owned utilities would offer EV owners off-peak charging rates to maximize customer savings, which could include the choice of purchasing electricity from solely renewable sources. In turn, the utility sees growing revenue from the charging of electric vehicles while reducing capacity

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costs and the need for fossil-fuel peak-load generation. The reduced charging rate for the customer becomes another valuable incentive to purchase an electric vehicle. By synchronizing renewable energy production with the charging of electrical vehicles and electrifying our transportation sector, we can ensure that New York’s climate and energy goals are met while providing utility bill savings and cleaner air for all New Yorkers.

Sierra Club strongly urges you to sign A.288 / S.3745 and continue the momentum we have built together in fully electrifying NY’s transportation sector.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Roger Downs
Conservation Director
Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter