February 26, 2019

S.23 (Parker)/A.4294 (Cusick)

Title: An act in relation to maintaining the continued viability of the state’s existing large-scale, renewable energy resources.

Statement of Support: Under the leadership of Governor Cuomo, New York soon will be committing to a 70% renewable energy grid by 2030 and a 100% carbon neutral grid by 2040, putting New York ahead of every state in the union in the generation sector. If ambitious proposals by the Senate and Assembly under the Climate and Community Protection Act become law, New York will be moving towards a zero-carbon society where our entire transportation, heating, industrial and building sectors will be electrified by 2050. And all that electricity will have to come from renewable sources like wind, solar and hydro-generation.

In order to meet these ambitious goals, we are going to need every resource available in NY, including our existing renewables. Currently, about a quarter of the state’s electrical generation is considered renewable with the majority of that power coming from hydroelectric facilities. As we reach for exponential growth of new renewable generation, it is important make sure that we do not neglect maintenance and state procurement of our existing capacity. It will not help us in the long run if for every new MW of renewable power we create, we lose a MW to attrition or out-of-state sales of that power.

Currently, New York does not allow existing generators to participate in State procurement programs designed to promote renewable energy, but Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) in neighboring states do. New York faces the real threat of losing a significant portion of our base line, renewable energy generation to out-of-state public utilities attempting to fulfill their own climate change/renewable energy procurement goals. And while we still have the obligation to fund and facilitate the mass expansion of renewables in New York, protecting our existing generation base is still more cost effective than investments in new development. S.23/A.4294 will ensure that NY utilities are responsible for procuring renewable energy from existing NY facilities – supporting both our climate goals and the 22,000 jobs already in NY’s renewable energy sector.

Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter Urges your support of S.23/A.4294