S.2838-A (Parker)

Purpose: Directs the commissioner of energy to adopt regulations increasing fuel economy standards for passenger vehicles purchased by or for the state or any agency or public authority thereof, and requires that by 2030 all such vehicles shall be battery, electric, plug-in hybrid electric or zero emission vehicles.

Statement of Support: New York has set ambitious goals to combat climate change and achieve economy-wide emissions reductions to ensure full decarbonization by 2050. The transportation sector accounts for 36% of New York’s greenhouse gas emissions - largely due to fossil-fuel powered vehicles. If New York does not rapidly transition away from the outdated and harmful gas-powered internal combustion engine, it will not be able to achieve these critical climate goals. New York’s public agencies and authorities can lead in this transition from a fossil-fuel dependent economy to one powered by clean, renewable energy by procuring zero emission vehicles.

S.2838-A will ensure that 25% of state vehicles will be zero emissions by December 21, 2025; and 50% of state agency vehicles will be zero emission no later than December 31, 2030. By January 1, 2030 all passenger vehicles purchased by any state agency or public authority shall be zero emission vehicles. If these cars and light duty trucks were to go all electric, the would leverage the state's buying power to increase the number of clean vehicles on New York roads. This not only would reduce emissions from these operations, but also demonstrate to the public and to manufacturers New York’s commitment to a zero-emission transportation future. New York currently maintains a fleet of more than 6,000 state owned vehicles. The sheer volume of the state fleet would help push the expansion of charging infrastructure in NY and connect state employees with the experience of driving an electric vehicle, potentially inspiring purchasing EVs of their own. If New York is indeed serious about fulfilling our recently enacted climate commitments - we must do our part by mandating that all fleet purchases by 2030 must be emissions free vehicles.

Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter Urges Your Support of S.2838-A