January 10, 2022

S.23-A (Kaplan)/A.4386-A (O’Donnell)

**Purpose:** S.23-A/A.4386-A would require construction of parking garages or parking lots receiving state capital funding to include capability of supporting electric vehicle charging stations in the future.

**Statement of Support:** With passage of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act in 2019, New York has set ambitious goals to combat climate change and achieve economy-wide emissions reductions to ensure full decarbonization by 2050. As the transportation sector accounts for more than one-third of New York’s greenhouse gas emissions, the transition away from gas-powered combustion engines to electric vehicles is essential to meeting these critical goals.

One way to encourage residents and businesses to switch to electric vehicles is to ensure that there will be adequate availability of public charging infrastructure. Towards this end, S.23-A/A.4386-A requires that new construction projects that receive state capital funding and include parking garages or parking lots accommodating more than 50 cars will be capable of supporting electric vehicle charging stations in the future. The bill is not a mandate to install charging stations but to install the infrastructure necessary for them, for a minimum of 20% of available parking spaces. The cost to install this infrastructure after the completion of the parking garage or lot is significantly higher than when the electric lines are included in the initial construction.

S.23-A/A.4386-A is written to confirm that it will comply with state labor and finance law, including payment of wages according to prevailing wage requirements.

Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter supports this legislation as a commonsense way to move New York in the right direction towards decarbonization while ensuring prevailing wage standards for a clean energy economy. Including the electric infrastructure during construction of parking facilities is an inexpensive way to set our communities up for future charging equipment as it becomes needed.

*Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter Urges Your Support of S. 23-A/A.4386-A*