Memorandum of Support

March 4, 2022

S.7406-A (Krueger)/A.3179-A (Fahy)

Purpose: This bill would require electric vehicle charging stations and electric vehicle capable parking spaces in new or substantially renovated residential and commercial buildings.

Statement of Support: The 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) sets ambitious goals to combat climate change. As the transportation sector accounts for nearly a third of New York's greenhouse gas emissions, we must transition away from gas-powered combustion engines to electric vehicles (EVs) to keep ahead of the worst effects of climate change. To this end, New York State mandated in 2021 that new vehicles be all-electric by 2035.

For this policy to be successful, EV charging infrastructure must be adequately available. As the number of EVs on the road increases, the need for charging stations increases correspondingly. S.7406-A/A.3179-A would align New York's construction and building code policy with state climate policy by requiring EV charging stations and EV capable parking spaces in new construction or major renovation of off-street garages, driveways and parking lots in residential and commercial buildings.

The cost to install this infrastructure after the completion of parking spaces is significantly higher than when the electric lines are included in the initial construction. This bill mandates that new construction of multi-unit residential buildings with at least eleven dedicated off-street parking spaces and commercial buildings with any number of parking spaces will have 100% EV capable spaces, including from 20% to 40% of those spaces with charging stations, depending on the number of parking spaces.

One, two or three-family homes undergoing substantial renovation involving a garage, driveway or parking lot must have at least one EV capable parking space, while homes with more than three families but less than eleven parking spaces must have at least 75% EV capable spaces with at least 20% charging stations.

This legislation brings the requirement to install EV infrastructure to new or renovated residential and commercial parking, and is an important companion bill to S.23-A/A.4386-A and S.370-A/A.346, which cover parking facilities owned and operated by NYS or which receive state capital funding.

Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter supports S.7406-A/A.3179-A as a commonsense way to move New York in the right direction towards decarbonization. Including EV charging capability during construction or renovation of parking facilities is an inexpensive way to set our communities up for future charging equipment as it becomes needed and ensures some charging stations are available immediately to encourage the adoption of EVs.

Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter Urges Your Support of S.7406-A/A.3179-A