May 23, 2018

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor, State of New York
Executive Chamber
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

As the Office of General Services (OGS) moves forward with plans to modernize the energy system that powers the State Capitol and the entire Empire State Plaza, we write to urge you to have them create a system that is powered by renewable energy and not fossil fuels.

The Sheridan Avenue energy plant is located nearby to the Capitol. Residents from the surrounding community have endured air pollutants from this plant for decades. About twenty-five years ago, the part of the facility that burned garbage was shuttered. It is time that we finish the job, end the health threat the plant poses, and switch to renewables.

In short, we believe residents—and all New Yorkers—are owed an energy system that is a shining example of the renewable energy economy envisioned by the State Energy Plan. If we are ever to achieve an 80% cut in greenhouse gases by 2050, we must start now to convert legacy systems from fossil fuels to 100% renewables. We cannot think of a more appropriate place to start down this path than the Sheridan Avenue plant.

Because we worked together to change the budget, the Office of General Services can now design and build an energy system that is powered by renewable technologies. The opportunity for New York to set an example for others states to follow is now within our grasp.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Steve Englebright
William Colton

Deborah Glick
Barbara Lifton