

**350Brooklyn • Acadia Center • Adirondack Council • Alliance for a Green Economy • Alliance for Clean Energy New York • Big Reuse • Catskill Mountainkeeper • Ceres • Citizen Action of New York • Citizen's Climate Lobby Rochester • Citizens Climate Lobby NY • Climate Justice Cornell • E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs) • Earthjustice • EarthKind Energy Consulting • Environmental Action Coalition • Environmental Advocates NY • Fossil Free Tompkins • Gas Free Seneca • HabitatMap • HeatSmart Tompkins • LES Ecology Center • Local Progress NY • Long Island Progressive Coalition • Long Islanders for Climate Justice • National Wildlife Federation Northeast Regional Center • Natural Resources Defense Council • Network for a Sustainable Tomorrow • New York Interfaith Power & Light • New York League of Conservation Voters • NYPIRG • Orebed Analytics LLC • Partnership for Policy Integrity • Peoples Climate Movement-NY • Renewable Energy Long Island • Seneca Lake Guardian • Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter • Union of Concerned Scientists • WESPAC Foundation, Inc.**

March 24, 2021

Hon Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
Majority Leader  
New York State Senate  
LOB 907  
Albany, New York 12247

Hon. Carl E. Heastie  
Speaker  
New York State Assembly  
LOB 932  
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and Speaker Heastie:

We applaud the Legislature's strong leadership on climate and strongly support the actions taken in your respective budget proposals to reject the Executive's proposed transfer of \$23 million of Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) revenues to the General fund. It is critical that these funds remain dedicated to helping the State meet the climate, clean energy, and equity goals dictated by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA).

Since New York joined the RGGI program in 2008, over \$1.4 billion have been raised from charging polluters for their emissions, but for the last several years the Executive has worked to redirect RGGI funds away from climate and clean energy programs and into the general fund, totaling \$228 million over the course of the program. The RGGI proceeds pay for NYSERDA programs supporting renewables, community solar, energy efficiency, transportation electrification, community energy planning, and energy innovation that create jobs, impact market decisions and lead to healthier, cleaner communities across New York. With the passage of the CLCPA, and the requirement that at least 35% of clean energy funds be used to benefit disadvantaged communities, these funds are essential to helping disadvantaged communities in the transition away from fossil fuels.

Communities are still suffering from the impacts of the pandemic and the appropriate use of RGGI funds can be part of the solution. Rejecting the transfer of RGGI funds will allow for more investments in low-income communities and communities of color that will help reduce air pollution, lower energy bills and

support the local transition to renewable energy. New Yorkers need this money to be used as intended; to fight climate change and support disadvantaged communities.

Thank you for your continued leadership in the fight to make New York a cleaner, more equitable state. We look forward to the adoption of a State Budget that ensures climate and clean energy investments are preserved and continue to be central to New York's just economic recovery.

Sincerely,

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Co-leader  
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cc: Hon. Andrew Cuomo, Governor  
Hon. Steve Englebright, Chair, Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee  
Hon. Todd Kaminsky, Chair, Senate Environmental Conservation Committee  
Carrie Gallagher, Acting Deputy Secretary for Energy and the Environment  
Rajiv Shaw, Assistant Counsel for Energy and the Environment