

5

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New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)
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Good afternoon, Chair Krueger, Chair Weinstein, and members of the Committees. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I am Alicia Barton, President and CEO of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and I look forward to continuing to work with the Legislature on the many critical climate and energy issues facing our state and nation.

Governor Cuomo's unprecedented commitment to fighting climate change has fundamentally reshaped how we think about the climate crisis in New York. We have set our sights on long-term targets to decarbonize our economy coupled with immediate actions to make it clear that New York is not wasting time moving towards our ambitious goals to fight climate change and grow a clean energy economy. As presented by the Governor during his budget address, the Executive Budget will continue New York's record as the most aggressive climate leader in the world through a \$33 billion, 5-year plan to fight climate change head on.

As you know, the Governor and the Legislature enacted The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), which has now set the standard for other states and the nation to follow. Thank you for your partnership in making the Climate Act our law of the land. The Climate Act codifies Governor Cuomo's nation-leading targets, including a major ramp up of renewable energy over the coming decade, and a mandate to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions in pursuit of a carbon neutral economy. While the law is the most aggressive of any major economy in the world, the science tells us that these actions are absolutely necessary to protect our planet and society from climate catastrophe. The Climate Act will drive continued investment in clean energy and it will target investments to ensure that the benefits of clean energy accrue to disadvantaged communities, create tens of thousands of new jobs, improve public health and the environment, and attract billions of dollars in private investment in our transforming energy economy.

NYSERDA is already rapidly advancing many of the pathways that will grow our clean energy economy and reduce emissions in every region of the state.

For example, critical to achieving our 70% by 2030 renewable electricity goal is the development of 9,000 megawatts of offshore wind by 2035, which will generate clean energy while creating a new, once in a generation industry, and bring economic benefits throughout the state. Our work took a giant step forward last year with the announcement of NYSERDA's first offshore wind awards to Empire Wind and Sunrise Wind, which will generate nearly 1,700 Megawatts of clean renewable electricity, enough to power over 1 million homes and which represent the nation's largest offshore wind awards to date. Building from this milestone, during this year's State of the State address, Governor Cuomo announced that NYSERDA will issue its second solicitation for offshore wind in 2020, which is expected to yield at least an additional 1,000 megawatts of clean power. Offshore wind will not only deliver clean energy to New Yorkers, but will also generate economic development benefits across the state, as demonstrated by the state's first offshore wind projects. To support the development of infrastructure for this growing industry, and build-out the in-state supply chain, ensuring that New York becomes the nation's hub for this growing industry, NYSERDA along with the New York State Department of Transportation and Empire State Development will initiate a competitive RFP process this year to award \$200 million to support private-public investment in offshore wind port infrastructure.

On land, New York's renewable energy market continues to grow with over 2,700 megawatts of solar, wind and storage installed since 2011 and more than 6,000 megawatts contracted and under development. The Governor recently announced that, through the third round of renewable energy procurement under the Clean Energy Standard, NYSERDA has selected 21 large-scale renewable energy projects which will receive payment for the environmental benefits they produce once they obtain all necessary permits, are constructed and become operational. This round of projects alone is expected to spur over \$2.5 billion of direct investment over the life of the projects and create over 2,000 short and long-term jobs. In total, NYSERDA has now awarded contracts to 67 land-based wind and solar projects, creating \$9.5 billion in direct investment in the clean energy sector, all over the state of New York. Through Pilot and Host Community agreements, these projects will directly benefit host communities upstate and downstate.

And we are eager to accelerate our progress. As Governor Cuomo stated in his 2021 Budget Address, we can and will do better when it comes to construction timelines for

renewable energy projects. The Governor is committed to not only setting goals, but actually achieving them—and achieving them faster than any other state.

Over the past decade, our NY-Sun program, has made New York a national leader in distributed solar development, and 2019 was our most productive year for solar installations. We are well on our way to achieving our new target of 6,000 megawatts by 2025, and recently crossed the 2,000 MW mark for installed projects, which are bringing environmental and economic benefits to our state from Long Island to Buffalo. And with an additional 1,200 megawatts of solar projects currently under development, including over 350 community solar projects that will expand access to more New Yorkers, including low-to-moderate-income households, we are excited to continue our nation-leading work. Since 2011, Governor Cuomo's NY-Sun initiative has spurred this incredible growth all while cutting the cost of solar in half and leveraging \$4 billion in private investment and creating nearly 12,000 jobs.

We are similarly proud of our work and commitment to support increased deployment of energy efficiency solutions and clean heating and cooling technologies. This initiative, which was recently supercharged by the Public Service Commission, will save consumers more than \$13 billion on energy bills and reduce 3 million metric tons of carbon pollution. NYSERDA plans to invest approximately \$200 million to complement and enhance utility incentive programs and create a statewide Clean Heating and Cooling market framework. We will also commit an additional \$30 million for heat pumps for low- and moderate-income New Yorkers to help ensure healthy and affordable heating and cooling solutions. All told, NYSERDA's investments in energy efficiency and heat pumps by 2025 will total \$1.2 billion.

Finally, as the largest producer of energy related greenhouse gas emissions in New York State, we must continue to address emissions from multi-faceted transportation sector. The Governor has announced several proposals through the State of the State to accelerate clean transportation solutions, including convening a blue ribbon task force to grow the electric vehicle sector and investing \$100 million in NY Green Bank financing to help clean transportation businesses locate or expand in New York. These initiatives will complement NYSERDA's Drive Clean Rebate program and the State's Charge Ready program, which will continue to serve as critical components of transforming our transportation sector.

As you can see, clean energy is already increasing on a rapid trajectory across the entire state. The 2020-21 Executive Budget recommends up to \$22.7 million in authorized funding for NYSERDA to support critical research and development and new clean energy businesses throughout New York. This funding also supports the State's energy planning functions, such as the State Greenhouse Gas Inventory and the State Energy Plan, and other purposes authorized in the enabling legislation.

This year's Executive Budget also recommends \$18.2 million for ongoing nuclear waste cleanup at the West Valley site in Cattaraugus County, an increase of roughly \$500,000. Over the past four decades, NYSERDA has managed and protected New York State's interests at West Valley. Our costs at West Valley are largely dictated by a federal match requirement and this amount reflects the funding level necessary to meet the federal appropriation and NYSERDA's other commitments at West Valley during the 2020-2021 federal fiscal year. Demolition, remediation and containment work on the West Valley Demonstration Project is ongoing in partnership with the federal government and this funding is critical to ensure responsible decommissioning of this facility.

In conclusion, I am extraordinarily proud of NYSERDA's leadership in advancing clean energy solutions on behalf of Governor Cuomo and the people of this great state. Clean energy is a vital component of New York's economic future, and these historic actions will generate billions of dollars of investment, thousands of new green jobs, and a cleaner, greener economy. We know the nation and the world will be watching as we work to achieve these outcomes in New York, and our actions will serve to cement New York's position as a leader in clean energy, environmental protection, and the fight against climate change.

This concludes my opening remarks. I would be happy to take any questions that you may have. Thank you.