



MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

THE STATE AND LOCAL CLEAN ENERGY PARTNERSHIP ACT

A.7371 – THIELE

S.6899 – HARCKHAM

Description: Establishes a standard New York State community choice aggregation program for all utility service territories.

Justification

New York State has the strongest climate law in the nation, which requires 70% renewable energy by 2030, carbon-free electricity by 2040, and net-zero GHG emissions by 2050. To achieve these important targets, New York State must accelerate the deployment of renewable energy resources.

Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) programs enable municipalities to replace the current utility default for electricity supply with a local choice, which is often renewable energy. In recent years, municipal CCA programs have purchased over a quarter of the annual voluntary purchases of renewable electricity in the state. These purchases benefit over 270,000 households with electricity supply at stabilized rates, saving ratepayers millions of dollars.

NYS has enabled CCA, but it is the only state that has done so without legislation, which has led to regulatory uncertainty and delays. Key regulatory decisions about CCA programs have been delayed for years, while renewable energy projects have also been delayed for years or downsized.

This legislation will establish a standard NYS CCA program for all utility service areas, providing a much-needed legal framework for CCA in NYS. Establishing a CCA program in statute will bring stability and market certainty, which will ensure that the full potential of these programs can be realized quickly. Adopting this legislation will enable hundreds of thousands of low- and moderate-income New York households to receive savings on their utility bills for the next twenty years. It will also allow hundreds of millions of dollars in federal tax credits, grants, low-interest capital, and loan guarantees to flow to New York State municipalities and renewable energy developers, which will leverage private investment, accelerate the development of renewable energy projects, and create jobs. All of this can be achieved at no cost to the state.

CCE urges the legislature to pass this important legislation that will accelerate our clean energy transition, benefit low-income ratepayers, create jobs, and fight climate change.

**CITIZENS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT SUPPORTS
A.7371/S.6899—The State and Local Clean Energy Partnership Act**

CCE is a 120,000-member non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization that works to empower communities and advocate solutions that protect public health and the natural environment

February 14, 2024