

September XX, 2009

The Honorable David A. Paterson
Governor of New York State
Executive Chamber
The Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Paterson:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer the thoughts of Zone 197 on your proposed State Energy Plan.

To keep the lights on and revitalize our economy, it is critical that we take a realistic and balanced approach to safeguarding our energy future. This will require that New York continues to support clean, safe and reliable power resources such as nuclear and hydropower, while supporting the continued development of alternative energy resources such as wind and geothermal to complement New York's baseload power infrastructure. Additionally, we need to tap the latest technology to turn fossil fuel resources such as coal, into clean-burning baseload energy resources. This is critical to creating jobs, stimulating investment and growing our economy.

The plan has identified energy efficiency as the priority resource for meeting its multiple objectives. While energy conservation and efficiency must be a vital component of any state energy plan, you cannot substitute efficiency and conservation at the expense of baseload power. It simply will not be enough.

There are many solid initiatives within this report – and in particular, we recognize the board for supporting the proposed Oxy Coal plant in Jamestown, and for supporting the construction of a new nuclear reactor at Nine Mile Point. As my union brothers and sisters well know, this project is critical to the very future of Central New York and the North Country.

In addition, your support for a new power plant siting law and for utilizing existing right-of-way for transmission improvements is vital to making these two initiatives a reality. I would also recognize the plan for supporting additional research and development in renewable energy, and voicing support for a new generation of green jobs. At the Boilermakers, we are ready to partner with your Administration to make these goals a reality.

Despite these positive developments, our state is still facing growing demands for power. Even after conservation and efficiencies have been factored in, the New York Independent System operator still projects demand for power increasing into the next decade. To maintain and enhance our quality-of-life, New York needs to keep and expand its use of clean baseload sources, particularly nuclear and hydro, which account for 53 percent of our electricity portfolio. Of particular importance is producing new hydropower on Green Island, as well as maintaining operations at the Indian Point Energy Center in Westchester County.

Indian Point supplies enough power for nearly one in every ten homes in our state – and is in the midst of applying for license renewal. Your plan also supports the plant's closure – which I would ask for you to reconsider. Indian Point is a union facility, with thousands of my union brothers and sisters either directly employed or responsible for contracted work at the plant.

We ask you to support union jobs. We ask you to support Indian Point.

Sincerely yours,



Matthew LoPresti
Assistant Business Manager
Boilermakers Zone 197