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Market Learn Advocate Grow

May 4, 2009

Mr. Paul A. DeCotis
Deputy Secretary for Energy
Chairman, Energy Planning Board
Executive Chamber, State Capitol 2nd Fl.
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Mr. DeCotis:

On behalf of the 1,200 businesses and over 200,000 employees represented by The Business Council of Westchester, we are currently focused on stabilizing our economy and moving it towards a successful recovery. A renewed focus on our energy future will facilitate these critical objectives. This is why the development and implementation of a new state energy plan are vital components towards our economic recovery as a region, and as a state. I applaud your efforts in leading this important effort.

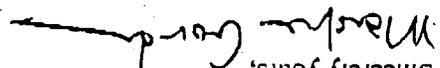
In January, 2008, a study co-sponsored by The Business Council of Westchester and three other Hudson Valley business groups found our economy can be bolstered through a renewed commitment to a revamped energy transmission system and new power generation resources. Accordingly, we believe that a new state energy plan should support investment in modernized transmission systems, a sustained focus on research and development of renewable energy, and the renewal of New York's Article X power plant siting law.

Moreover, the issue of energy costs continues to be a top concern to businesses throughout the Hudson Valley. Continuing the competitive market model as utilized by the Public Service Commission is a needed step to ensure energy competition, alternative energy development and lower costs for businesses and consumers. Additionally, the energy plan should also support reasonable steps towards lowering taxes assessed on power producers and utilities, and fees assessed on energy consumers.

You should also be aware that more than 75 percent of the electricity consumed within the lower Hudson Valley is produced by Indian Point Energy Center. The facility's 2,000-plus megawatts of electricity powers up to 2 million homes, all without emitting greenhouse gasses. Closure of Indian Point would severely impact our region's quality-of-life and increase electricity costs by more than 150% by 2017. Our study estimates that this would contribute to the loss of 11,000 jobs, \$2.1 billion in cumulative lost wages, and nearly \$5.5 billion in cumulative lost economic output. While some elected officials seek to end Indian Point's operations, no realistic or credible alternatives have been offered to replace these plants. For these reasons, we recommend that the state energy policy support the continued operations of the Indian Point Energy Center.

The rising costs of electricity coupled with the lack of new generating capacity are serious concerns for our businesses. The Business Council of Westchester supports a comprehensive statewide energy policy that encourages an affordable, reliable, safe and diverse supply of energy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,
Mark Cord