



Building and Construction Trades Council of Nassau and Suffolk Counties

James Castellane, President
Alan Ehl, Secretary Treasurer

Stephen Flanagan, Vice President
James Rogers, Recording Secretary

Trustees: Dante Dano, Frank Pellegrino, Richard O'Kane

September 9, 2009

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

Dear Governor Paterson:

On behalf of the Nassau-Suffolk Building Trades Council and our more than 62,000 union workers, thank you for the opportunity to share our views on your proposed State Energy Plan.

As you know, Long Island is a great place to live, work and raise a family. We have a skilled workforce, effective labor leadership and all the amenities needed to ensure that our families enjoy the finest quality-of-life anywhere within the Empire State. However, we also know that the cost of living in Nassau and Suffolk County continues to rise, and that high energy costs have directly impacted our ability to grow our regional economy through new jobs and new investment. Part of this lies in Long Island's limited and antiquated power generation system.

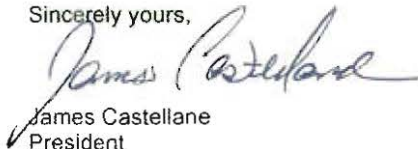
Passage of a new power plant siting statute would expedite the process for siting and constructing a new generation of clean and efficient power generation stations that will create new jobs, use less energy and stabilize energy costs for consumers. We are pleased to see that the proposed State Energy Plan includes support for a new siting bill, but the fact remains that passage and authorization of this law cannot come soon enough. Recently, a wind energy project off Plum Island proposed by Deepwater Wind was dropped because of the lack of a state siting law. Rhode Island will now be the beneficiary of 800 new jobs and 1.3 million megawatts of annual electricity. This is simply unconscionable.

The Nassau Suffolk Building Trades also endorsed a plan to construct a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facility some 23 miles from the Rockaway Peninsula, known as Atlantic Sea Island. The new plant would provide 4 million man-hours of work for construction trades throughout the region while ensuring safe, secure access to this clean, crucial fuel source. I was disappointed to see that the plan was not specifically mentioned in the proposed plan.

Additionally, many of our trades workers have also spent time working at Indian Point – in Westchester County. The proposed plans call for closing the facility is troubling from a labor standpoint – in addition to concerns for all New Yorkers concerned about reliable baseload power and air quality.

On a final note Governor, I would recognize yourself and the Energy Planning Board for making efficiency and conservation a cornerstone of the proposed plan. As an Insulator by trade, I know full well that making buildings more energy efficiency saves money, reduces energy consumption, and improves our environment.

Sincerely yours,



James Castellane
President

Affiliated with Building and Construction Trades Department AFL-CIO

300 Motor Parkway, Suite 200, Hauppauge, New York 11788 . (631) 951-3315/16 . Fax No. (631) 951-3317
nsbctc@optonline.net