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Title: Principal

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Our comments focus on Workforce Development and Educational Initiatives included in Section V. Growing New Yorks Clean Energy Economy. As drafted the focus of this section is too narrow and will result in a plan that ignores a significant opportunity to improve the economic wellbeing of at least one and possible more disadvantaged groups. It is clear that this plan will pay significant attention to the Cleantech/Clean Energy/Renewable industry. This industry, which we will call the Cleantech Industry, has the potential to spur unprecedented economic growth and create broad employment opportunities for large numbers of people with differing abilities. While the Cleantech industry will need trained scientists and engineers it also needs manufacturing employees of various skill levels, administrative employees, recycling employees, and nursery/agricultutal employees. These positions can be filled by employees possessing lower educational achievement and more basic skills. The scope as presented partially recognizes this fact. But it also ignores a group that could benefit --- people with developmental disabilities. Unemployment for this group is significantly higher than other groups; a recent survey of the disabled found only 30% of the survey participants worked, even though some 65% of the sample held college degrees. We believe the Cleantech Industry can provide a platform to improve the economic situation of the disabled, but only if we are open to the possibility and take proactive action. Including the disabled in the scope of this plan is the first

step. Last fall we had the privilege of participating in the Cleantech Executive program at NYU and sponsored by NYSERDA and conducted preliminary

research on this topic, which we would be happy to share.

Comment: