



May 6, 2009

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

Dear Mr. DeCotis:

The Rockland Business Association (RBA) represents the concerns of over 1,000 membership companies –ranging from major corporations to small business owners. As you work with your team to compile New York State's new energy plan, I would ask for you to consider our recommendations for this important initiative.

First and foremost, the state energy plan should support the reauthorization of the Article X power plant siting law.

Rockland is no stranger to watching energy providers close up shop along the Hudson River. Plant closures, such as the Lovett plant in Stony Point have significantly impacted the budgets of local Rockland communities and school districts. We cannot allow more communities to suffer the same fate and our state needs to ensure that it maintains a supply of affordable, reliable baseload power well into the future. This is why we believe that the state energy plan should clearly support the reauthorization of the Article X power plant siting law.

Secondly, the state energy plan should also specifically support the use of nuclear energy and the continued operations of the Indian Point Energy Center.

Indian Point's power flows through our lines, and to our businesses and homes. Indian Point's employees own homes in Rockland County, and when those same employees pay their school taxes, their money flows to Rockland classrooms and goes toward paying our teachers' salaries. When Indian Point buys goods and services, Rockland companies fulfill those needs. And when Rockland County's emergency services provide assistance to local residents, it's because investment dollars from Indian Point were given to the county that went beyond just planning and training for the slim possibility of a radiological emergency.

Now, in the face of mounting budget cuts and the threat of economic collapse, we need Indian Point's green, low-cost electric power more than ever. The lower Hudson Valley receives between 18 – 38% of its electricity from Indian Point; a truly large amount of power. This is not an amount that we cannot easily afford to lose or easily replace.

Thirdly, the state energy plan must include a commitment to lowering utility costs for businesses and homeowners.

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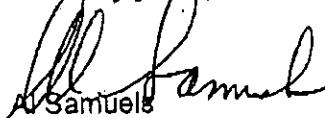
We all know that excessive taxation and escalating fees have fostered a negative impact throughout our state. In border counties like Rockland, these policies are even further pronounced. And now, there are proposals making their way through Albany that would actually eliminate competition in the state's electricity markets. We must continue the competitive market model utilized by the State, lower property taxes for utilities and power producers, end the gross receipts tax on utilities and also end the state's practice of consistently raising fees on utility bills. These actions will help small businesses and our region's middle-class the most.

Finally, the state energy plan should encourage greater energy efficiencies, new transmission infrastructure investment and the development of a new generation of green jobs.

The RBA fully supports both the county's and state's energy efficiency efforts, as well as investing in the development of new sources of green power. We also know that to sustain our region's future, we must focus our energies and resources towards training tomorrow's workforce today. And while many of us have expressed concerns regarding the federal stimulus package, we can all agree that those dollars should be used for what they were intended for - rebuilding our transportation and energy infrastructure, developing alternative energy resources and putting New Yorkers back to work, rather than plugging budget gaps and encouraging new social services spending.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to continuing to work with you in the weeks and months to come.

Sincerely yours,



A. Samuels
President/CEO
Rockland Business Association