



NYC Apollo

Forging a Strong Economy and a Healthy City

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Governor Pataki
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224
via fax: 518-474-1513

Dear Governor Pataki:

NYC Apollo urges you to protect the effectiveness and success of New York State Energy Research and Development Agency (NYSERDA) energy efficiency and renewable energy programs by ensuring that the system benefit charge, dedicated efficiency and renewable energy funds collected through utility bills, remains outside the legislative process. Since 1998, these funds have been collected by New York State electric power companies and deposited directly with NYSERDA. As currently written, the Article VII language denies NYSERDA reliable, multi-year funding by replacing it with an annual legislative appropriation beginning in State Budget Year 2006-2007. This change to the method of funding NYSERDA runs the risk of damaging its proven ability to develop and deliver the financial, environmental and economic development benefits that New Yorkers demand.

NYC Apollo is a coalition of labor unions, environmental justice, environmental, business, and community groups that have joined together to make certain that New York maintains its competitive edge by ensuring a consistent and reliable power supply. In our view, this means promoting renewable and distributive sources of energy. NYC Apollo also seeks to ensure that energy planning and economic development are conducted in New York in an equitable manner so that lower-income communities of color do not bear an overwhelming burden. Coalition members are committed to reducing our dependency on imported petroleum products and on diversifying our energy sources by promoting existing technologies in solar, biomass, micro-hydro, geothermal and wind energy and by setting ambitious but achievable goals for increasing renewable power generation. We are committed to the research and development of new technologies for distributed renewable generation and we are certain that the State's new Renewable Portfolio Standard will help to bring highly skilled construction jobs to New York. In all these ways, NYC Apollo will help to link clean energy and good jobs.

We believe that NYSERDA has proven that it is up to these tasks, and should definitely continue to implement its full array of programs which benefit New York City's economy and environment.

On behalf of all its members, the NYC Apollo thanks you for your reconsideration of this matter. We would be pleased to work with you to support efforts to ensure that NYSERDA is fully accountable to the public and that it provides programs that are effective, efficient and responsible.

Sincerely,

Joanne Derwin
NYC Apollo

Jeremy Reiss

cc: John Cahill, Secretary to the Governor
Charles Fox, Deputy Secretary to the Governor for Energy, Environment and Transportation

NYC APOLLO, a new and growing coalition convened to transform the way our city is powered in a way that creates jobs, improves our health and productivity, promotes equity, and ensures that New York City maintains its status as the world's preeminent global city. NYC Apollo presents a positive, far-sighted vision for what our city can be.