

## **LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM Environmental Justice and Affordable Housing Partners**

Dear New York State leader,

We, the undersigned, support strengthening the New York State Solar Energy System Equipment Tax Credit to accelerate solar adoption while expanding access to more homeowners, including low-income families, families living in co-ops and condos, and residents of Disadvantaged Communities.

Since 2006, the current \$5,000 personal income tax credit cap (up to 25% of the installation cost) has remained flat without any inflationary adjustment. The tax credit has also been inaccessible to low-income homeowners and seniors with limited tax liability. We are asking you to support this proposal to expand the tax credit, helping to accelerate New York's renewable energy transition while empowering more New Yorkers to participate in and benefit from clean energy.

Proposed Improvements to the State Solar Tax Credit:

- Make the tax credit refundable so low-income homeowners, including seniors on fixed incomes, can benefit from this incentive. Note: the existing version of the bill must be amended to accurately include refundability to low-income individuals and those living in Disadvantaged Communities
- Increase the maximum Tax Credit amount to \$10,000 for systems installed after 1/1/2023, adjusting for inflation and higher equipment costs, and providing headroom for energy storage expenses
- Eliminate the arbitrary system size cap that reduces the value of this incentive for homeowners living in co-ops or condos
- Make energy storage equipment expenses eligible to incentivize resilient solar

The enhancements outlined above would expand New York's as-of-right solar incentive, ensuring it is accessible to disadvantaged communities through a refundable credit, and align it with the environmental justice and renewable energy goals of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). In addition to accelerating New York's progress towards its clean energy, resilience, and equity commitments, this proposal will create and sustain thousands of good green jobs for New Yorkers while attracting expanded federal and private investment into the State. Updating the Solar Energy System Equipment Tax Credit would:

- Provide more equitable access to benefits of clean energy
- Advance CLCPA goals through accelerated solar adoption;
- Catalyze progress toward a 100% zero-carbon grid, supporting climate resilience; and
- Help facilitate the retirement of the dirtiest and most expensive fossil fuel peaker plants concentrated in environmental justice communities by increasing renewable energy production and storage; and
- Help more New York electricity customers access savings on energy bills.

Sincerely,

**COALITION OF SUPPORTERS SIGNED ON (AS OF MARCH 30, 2023)**

**Fifth Avenue Committee, New York City Environmental Justice Alliance, WE ACT for Environmental Justice, Association for Energy Affordability, Council of New York Cooperatives and Condominiums (CNYC), New Yorkers for Clean Power, GRID Alternatives, Cooper Square Committee, Solar One, Vote Solar, Sustainable Westchester, Cool/Heat Smart Brooklyn, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, NYC 2030 District, Urban Homesteading Assistance Board (UHAB), New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI), Renewable Energy Long Island, New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV), Queens Climate Project, Long Island Progressive Coalition, Vision Long Island, Long Island Environmental Voters Forum, Habitat for Humanity New York City and Westchester County**

