



## MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF

[S.5506 \(Kavanagh\)](#) / [A.8378 \(Levenberg\)](#)

### Amending the Public Service Law and Labor Standards to Permit Large Energy Storage Systems Under the Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electricity Transmission (ORES)

June 2025

The coalition of organizations listed below support S.5506 / A.8378 and urges its immediate passage. This bill will amend the Public Service Law to permit large energy storage systems (25 megawatts and greater) under the Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electricity Transmission (ORES) and will amend the existing statutory labor standards to establish prevailing wage requirements for energy storage systems.

This bill will help ensure the **safe and timely deployment of energy storage** in support of New York's expanded 6 GW by 2030 energy storage target, as well as the broader clean energy, grid reliability, and equity targets of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA).

**Streamlining permitting for safer, more consistent deployments.** The bill addresses longstanding challenges with local permitting of energy storage by establishing a centralized, expert review process at ORES, ensuring rigorous safety reviews throughout project design, installation, and operation. By offering a standardized review pathway similar to the process already in place for major renewable energy facilities, this bill will also support improved regulatory consistency and accelerate deployment of storage projects critical to supporting the grid.

**Supporting grid modernization goals.** More than 100 local governments across the state have enacted moratoria on energy storage, affecting over 1 GW of projects currently in the interconnection queue. These delays threaten the State's ability to meet clean energy and grid reliability targets and delay the air quality and equity benefits that storage can help deliver. A coordinated and transparent permitting framework under ORES can help address community concerns while enabling projects to move forward safely.

**Creating good, green jobs.** The important bill will include energy storage as a "covered renewable energy system" under existing statutory labor standards, ensuring all New York energy storage projects are built with prevailing wages, operated and maintained pursuant to labor peak agreements, and comply with Buy American provisions, where appropriate. This provision will help create high-quality jobs as New York builds out its energy infrastructure.

**For these reasons, this coalition of organizations strongly support S.5506 / A.8378 and urges its passage as a critical step to enhance public safety, accelerate grid modernization, create well-paying jobs, and advance New York's climate and equity goals.**

For more information contact Claudia Villar-Leeman, Sr. Director of Policy and Regulatory Affairs, at [cvillarleeman@ny-best.org](mailto:cvillarleeman@ny-best.org) and Deb Peck Kelleher, Deputy Director, at [dpeckkelleher@aceny.org](mailto:dpeckkelleher@aceny.org).

**Coalition of Organizations in Support:**

ADVANCED ENERGY UNITED

ALLIANCE FOR CLEAN ENERGY NEW YORK

AMERICAN CLEAN POWER

INDEPENDENT POWER PRODUCERS OF NEW YORK

NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

NETWORK FOR A SUSTAINABLE TOMORROW

NEW YORK BATTERY AND ENERGY STORAGE TECHNOLOGY CONSORTIUM

NEW YORK CLIMATE JOBS

NEW YORK LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

NEW YORK STATE AFL-CIO

NEW YORK STATE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

NEW YORK STATE LABORERS' ORGANIZING FUND

NEW YORKERS FOR CLEAN POWER

SIERRA CLUB

WE ACT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE