



Memorandum of Support

A9981A (Cusick) / S8405A (Parker)

May 13, 2022

A9981A/ (Cusick) / S8405A (Parker): Enacts the "fossil fuel facilities replacement and redevelopment blueprint act"; relates to the development of a blueprint to guide the replacement and redevelopment of New York's oldest and most-polluting fossil fuel facilities and their sites by 2030.

Founded in 1991, the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance (NYC-EJA) is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 citywide membership network linking grassroots organizations from low-income communities of color in their struggle for environmental justice. NYC-EJA empowers its member organizations to advocate for improved environmental conditions and against inequitable environmental burdens by the coordination of campaigns designed to inform City and State policies. Through our efforts, member organizations coalesce around specific common issues that threaten the ability of low-income communities of color to thrive.

The New York City Environmental Justice Alliance would like to voice support for A9981A/ (Cusick) / S8405A (Parker). This legislation will empower the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, Department of Public Service, and Department of Environmental Conservation to facilitate a transition from fossil fuel power generation to renewable energy and battery storage by 2030.

NYC-EJA is a member of the PEAK Coalition, which recently published a study with the New York Power Authority that found the feasibility of individually transitioning NYPA peaker plants to battery storage sites by the year 2030.¹ PEAK research has shown that peaker plants are some of the oldest, costliest, and most polluting sources of energy in our state. Transitioning to renewable energy and battery storage will have measurable climate, economic, and public health impacts and must be implemented as soon as possible. This bill builds upon the NYPA study and enables NYSERDA to conduct a sector-wide study to this effect while accounting for renewable energy and battery storage combinations that can further strengthen resource adequacy and energy reliability without false solutions.

The State has already committed to replace and redevelop its fossil fuel facilities. New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act further mandates an emissions-free electricity system by 2040. This bill would enable a responsible process to achieve this commitment by prioritizing a just transition that honors the priorities of frontline communities. Enabling transparent public proceedings and clear implementation guidelines assure that we can operationalize a much-needed transition while accounting for energy democracy and system reliability.

For the reasons stated above, NYC-EJA strongly supports A9981A/ (Cusick) / S8405A (Parker).

¹ ["Small Clean Power Plant Adaptation Study." New York Power Authority, April 2022.](#)