



## Memorandum of Support

### **New York State Climate and Communities Protection Act**

#### **A.3876/S.2992**

The New York State Climate and Communities Protection Act creates a new Article 75 for “Climate Change” in the NYS Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) that requires the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and many other state agencies to develop and promulgate a “Climate Action Plan” for New York for energy conservation, efficiency, conversion from fossil fuels to renewable energy, and develop new regulations for greenhouse gas emissions reductions in New York. This legislation creates a partnership with a “Climate Justice Working Group” to work with state agencies on planning and decision making to fight climate change. The bill also amends section 54-1523 of the environmental conservation law to make particular technologies eligible in the NYS Environmental Protection Fund. It also makes other changes to state law to require NYS government agencies utilize renewable energy. The New York State Climate and Communities Protection Act also requires a study from the NYS DEC about obstacles in the state that prevent or limit conversion to renewable energy sources. Lastly, this legislation mandates that state agencies must consider climate change and clean energy when reviewing projects and issuing permits.

Climate change impacts all New Yorks in every county in the state. This legislation is vital for making climate change a matter to public urgency for state government. This bill requires that New York not just issue vague goals for greenhouse gas emission reductions of increased use of renewables across New York, but develops a plan for the actual conversion from fossil fuels to renewable energy. The “Climate Justice Working Group” is an important part of this bill because this effort should not be driven exclusively by the Executive and state agencies. The Legislature must be able to appoint members to the state’s planning effort to ensure public accountability.

Protect the Adirondacks strongly supports A.3876/S.2992, the New York State Climate and Communities Protection Act.

**For more information: Peter Bauer, Executive Director, (O) 518-251-2700  
February 3, 2019**