



Legislation

S.737 (Parker)

Title

Relates to providing net revenues from utility-owned large-scale renewable generation projects to low-income customers and authorizes utility companies to own such projects

The New York State Laborers' Political Action Committee (NYS Laborers' PAC) is an organization representing over 40,000 union members and 24 local unions. The NYS Laborers' PAC aggressively advocates for wage and safety standards for our members, raising the floor for both union and nonunion construction workers.

The New York State Laborers' PAC opposes S737, legislation with the potential to increase costs for ratepayers and reduce efficiency in the building and operation of renewable energy generation. While we appreciate the legislation's intent to reduce costs for low-income customers, we fear S737 will have the opposite effect. Utility companies already have a backlog of community solar bill credits, failing to provide thousands of need-based New Yorkers with relief in a timely fashion. There is also no evidence to suggest utility companies can achieve the ambitious goals of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) faster and more efficiently than independent power producers, as the Renewable Energy Siting Law process remains the same for both. Any potential for stalled projects will have disastrous implications for the environment, job creation and ratepayers. Additionally, it is imperative that the NYS Laborers be included in any discussion of this legislation moving forward, as our members will be uniquely impacted by such a consequential policy shift. In its current form, this legislation is simply too great a risk for ratepayers and New York's clean energy future.

For the aforementioned reasons, the New York State Laborers' PAC opposes S737, legislation allowing utility companies to own and operate renewable energy projects. Should you have further questions, please contact Amanda Jensen, amanda.nyslecet@gmail.com.