



Dear Speaker Heastie and Members of the New York State Assembly,

In 2019, New York State set the ambitious and nation leading goal of having 70% of our power come from renewable sources by 2030. Your vote to pass the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) allowed New York to stand up for those most affected by climate change. The Empire State said we would no longer wait for the federal government and moved to fight back against the biggest environmental threat our generation faces — not with words, but with action. Under your leadership Speaker Heastie, New York not only passed the most ambitious climate plan in American history, but also laid out a clear plan on how to achieve it by bringing offshore wind to New York's coast.

That plan is now in jeopardy.

With only six and half years left to meet the mandate laid out by the CLCPA, we are at a critical inflection point where three of New York's essential offshore wind projects – that would produce 3.3 GW, **over one-third of New York State's 9 GW offshore wind, mandated** by the CLCPA – are under direct threat. That is why we write to you today and implore you to pass **A7764** The Proposed Offshore Wind Transmission Act with immediate urgency.

Without passage of this bill this session, the Empire Wind 2 project will not stay on its timeline, jeopardizing not only this critical initiative but also creating a domino effect delaying and potentially derailing other crucial projects currently in the pipeline: the Empire Wind 1 project, the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal and the Beacon Wind 1 project.

The Empire Wind and Beacon Wind projects are expected to not only remove the equivalent emissions of 1.3 million cars from the roads annually but also power approximately 2 million New York homes with clean, renewable energy while creating over \$3 billion in economic activity for New York. In Sunset Park, the developer is working closely with Environmental Justice organizations to not only make the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) a hub for offshore wind in New York, but to ensure that the project is built with the least amount of environmental impact on the community using union labor.

The Empire Wind 2 project has announced that they will purchase their towers from a facility that is being built at the Port of Albany. This project is not only delivering clean, renewable energy to New York, it is creating an industry and bringing investment and thousands of union jobs across the state. All of this is at risk if the Assembly fails to pass **A7764**.

The Senate stayed true to its commitment to the mandates laid out by the CLCPA when they passed the companion bill to A7764 on June 9th after the Long Beach City Council unanimously requested home rule from the State of New York. The Assembly has long championed efforts to combat climate change – now it is crucial that the body demonstrates that commitment with action and passes this bill this session. Our future and our children's future is at stake.

We **strongly support** A7764/S6218-A and urge the Assembly to pass this bill during the 2023 legislative session.

In solidarity,

Natural Resources Defense Council
Citizens Campaign for the Environment
New York League of Conservation Voters
Sierra Club