

NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE

ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247



SENATOR MARK C. WALCZYK
49TH SENATE DISTRICT

August 3, 2023

The Honorable Kevin S. Parker
172 State Street Room 504, Capitol Building
Albany, New York, 12247

Dear Senator Parker,

On July 27, thermal runaway, caused by lithium-ion batteries, set a solar farm in the 49th Senate district on fire. The blaze drained local and state emergency response resources and endangered the lives of Chaumont residents. Even today, questions linger about the air and water quality in the areas around the fire. I have consistently voiced my concerns about lithium-ion batteries and their usage across the state. On July 27, my worst fears became a reality. New York City Democrats like yourself have pushed policies that caused this disaster, but rural New Yorkers are the ones paying the price.

This is not a fight about controlling policy; it is about keeping all of our communities safe from disasters like these. I would like to hear from you how we can proactively make sure disasters like this one do not happen again. You can start by supporting S7622, which would require that safety data sheets be conspicuously placed on solar farms. This action would help emergency responders find the information on how to put out lithium-ion battery fires quickly.

I look forward to reading your response in writing. Please reach out to my office if you would like to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Walczyk'.

Mark C. Walczyk
Senator
New York SD-49

MCW/jc

