



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Joseph A. Griffo

Griffo Supports Senate Approval of Governor's 'Recharge NY' Program Bill

JOSEPH A. GRIFFO March 9, 2011

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SENATE APPROVES CREATION OF "RECHARGE NY" POWER PROGRAM

Program Bill Would Establish New, Permanent Low-Cost Power Program to Create & Retain Jobs

Senator Joseph A. Griffo (R-C-IP, Rome) confirmed today that the Senate passed his co-sponsored legislation (Senate bill 3164), to create a new, permanent program called "Recharge NY," that would provide low-cost power to help businesses create and retain jobs.

Griffo, a member of the Senate Energy and Telecommunications Committee, noted that this program was an improvement over its vastly popular predecessor, the Power for Jobs Program. “We made it permanent, to take the guesswork out; made it a more reliable program and increased its capacity so that more employers will be eligible for the benefits,” he said. “These changes should have been implemented years ago, but we now have an Executive who shares our vision for job growth in upstate communities.”

The Recharge NY bill, which was submitted as a program bill by Governor Andrew Cuomo and is included in his 2011-12 Executive Budget, would double the amount of low cost power available for businesses and non-profits to 910 megawatts.

The new low cost power program could help revitalize the manufacturing sector of New York’s economy that has lost 288,000 jobs over the past ten years. Electric rates for businesses in New York are twice as high as rates in other states. New York's high energy costs are a factor when New York-based companies decide whether to stay open or expand, and when new companies decide where to invest.

The bill is supported by the Business Council of New York State, the New York Farm Bureau, NFIB, the Manufacturers Association of Central New York, Environmental Advocates, the Long Island Association and the Buffalo Niagara Partnership.

The original Power for Jobs program began in 1997 and has been extended on a year-to-year basis the past five years. It currently provides low cost power to about 500 businesses. The new program would provide twice the wattage and businesses participating in the program would receive seven-year commitments for their allocations of low-cost power. There would be no cost to the state for this program.

“Over the last few years, I heard the same message from businesses who knew about the program: they love the benefits, but hated the uncertainty of its year-to-year renewal,” Griffo added. “Once this is signed into law, they’ll see that we’re fully focused to improving upstate job creation.”

Recharge NY would combine the current 455 megawatts of power currently used for Power for Jobs with another 455 megawatts now used to cut residential electric bill across Upstate by two to four dollars per month. In return, the New York Power Authority would provide residential customers with a yearly discount totaling \$100 million through 2013. The discount would be reduced to \$70 million in 2014, \$50 million in 2015 and \$30 million in 2016 and beyond. This phase out would be offset by savings from the scheduled expiration of the electric utility surcharge passed by Senate Democrats in 2009, as well as costs paid by NYPA through a combination of hydroelectric power and other resources.

The Recharge NY bill will be the third program bill submitted by the Governor to be passed by the Senate, the others being property tax cap legislation and the military voting ballot extension bill.

In addition, the Senate has passed bills to establish a state spending cap, provide tax incentives to encourage private sector job creation, and require a supermajority to raise taxes. The Assembly has not acted on these bills.

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Watch Sen. Griffo's comments on the floor here:

<http://www.nysenate.gov/video/2011/mar/09/senator-joe-griffo-session-comments-power-jobs-legislation-3-8-11>