

January 28, 2025

**Re: ALLEGRO POWER Testimony to Joint Legislative Budget Hearing on Energy and Environmental Conservation Regarding the 2025-2026 Executive Budget**

Dear Senator Kreuger and Assemblymember Pretlow,

I'm writing to you from Allegro Power regarding the 2025-2026 executive budget.

Allegro Power is celebrating our 15th anniversary as a solar installation company based in Buffalo, NY. Over the last 15 years in business, we have created a strong green workforce working throughout New York State. We have completed thousands of solar installations and trained our electricians and solar installers to be experts in the field. We currently have 25 employees supporting their FAMILIES in great paying jobs. In addition to our employees, we have trained countless other subcontractors how to install solar as they work alongside us on projects.

Increasing solar energy supply in New York can directly advance the Governor's Affordability Agenda by lowering electricity bills for homes and businesses across the state. However, the 2025-2026 Executive Budget and the Governor's policy agenda outlined in her State-of-the-State address do not include any policies to advance cost-effective solar deployment in New York State.

Rooftop and community solar ("distributed solar") is New York's most successful clean energy sector, and continues to have incredible momentum following a record-setting year for the state. It is also the sector that employs the most workers, with 15,490 employees based on NYSERDA's 2024 jobs census. Despite our industry's momentum, we are facing major challenges that threaten New York's solar industry, companies like mine, and our skilled workforce. These challenges can be overcome with smart policy proposals, and I encourage you to consider the following proposals in the 2025-2026 budget.

Raising the state's distributed solar goal to 20 gigawatts by 2035 ("20x35") will further push New York to close the gap on its renewable energy targets while lowering energy costs for families and businesses. In June 2024, NYSEIA released [20 Gigawatts by 2035](#), a policy roadmap to accelerate distributed solar deployment in New York. Adopting the proposals in this roadmap will deliver \$50B in direct utility bill savings to families and businesses, lower the cost of electricity for all customers, and create 15,000 additional sustainable jobs in the solar industry.

The Governor expressed concerns about affordability in her State of the State address and Executive Budget proposal. Without urgent action, rising energy demands and inflation will cause energy costs to become an extreme financial burden on New Yorkers. Energy bills are already the third largest expense for New York households, with lower income households spending 10-20% of their income on energy alone.

Rooftop solar can be an affordable solution to this with the modernization of the residential solar tax credit. [Legislators and a coalition of renewable energy, housing and environmental organizations have advocated to raise the per-household cap for New York's only statewide solar incentive and make the credit accessible to low-income homeowners and seniors.](#) Thus, including [S.2626 \(Harckham\)](#) / A.1373 (Walker) in the final budget will make it more affordable for homeowners across the state to install rooftop solar panels.

Finally, the NY-Sun program is NYSERDA's most successful clean energy program, supporting solar projects across much of New York State with modest capacity-based incentives, which are nearly exhausted. Near-term action is needed for market continuity, but long-term action will provide market-certainty and attract investment. Thus, NYSERDA's NY-Sun program must be extended, especially targeted to projects that directly lower energy costs for low- to moderate-income households.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input, and for your important work to protect New York's environment and cost-effectively increase clean energy supply.

Sincerely,

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President

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