



September 12, 2019

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

cc: The Honorable Nancy P. Pelosi
The Honorable Kirsten E. Gillibrand
New York Democratic Congressional Delegation

Dear Minority Leader Schumer:

New York State is leading the nation on climate action. The recently enacted Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act established the most ambitious climate target to date: to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 40% from 1990 levels by 2030 and to create a net-zero carbon economy by 2050. However, we cannot meet these ambitious goals without continued federal support to accelerate the widespread adoption of clean energy technologies. We request that you support and cosponsor the Renewable Energy Extension Act (S.2289) to delay the phase down for five years of the federal Investment Tax Credit and the Renewable Energy Tax Credit.

Since the creation of the federal Investment Tax Credit (ITC) for the commercial sector (Section 48) and the residential Renewable Energy Tax Credit (Section 25D), your steadfast support has been essential to each improvement and extension of the policy. Thanks to your leadership, the ITC has helped double the number of clean energy jobs in the last decade while helping reduce the greenhouse gas intensity of the electricity sector by 25%.¹ For the solar industry alone, the ITC has helped create nearly 250,000 jobs nationally and nearly 10,000 across New York State.²

Your leadership is needed now more than ever if New York is to meet its ambitious climate goals. As Congress considers tax policy this year, we ask you to work with your colleagues to extend the federal ITC that supports solar, geothermal heat pumps, fuel cells and other clean energy technologies. These credits are set to begin phasing down at the end of this year. In response, Senator Catherine Cortez Masto and Representative Mike Thompson introduced the bipartisan

¹ <https://www.eia.gov/outlooks/aeo/pdf/aeo2019.pdf>

² <https://www.seia.org/state-solar-policy/new-york-solar>

Renewable Energy Extension Act (S.2289; H.R.3961) to delay the phase down for five years. We ask you to join this bill as a co-sponsor and support its passage in the Senate.

The technologies eligible for the federal ITC remain at low levels of market penetration. Solar energy, for example, accounted for less than 3% of total U.S. electricity in 2018.³ Allowing the ITC to phase down would stifle the ability of clean energy technologies to cut emissions in New York. To provide another example, a long-term ITC extension will help reduce the installation costs of geothermal heat pumps, which can cut energy use in buildings by 40% to 70% and building greenhouse gas emissions by 50%. Geothermal heat pumps are particularly well suited to replace the dirty and expensive fuel oil heating systems that still serve more than a million homes and businesses in our state.

At a time when the Executive branch of the United States Federal Government is abdicating its responsibility to meet our country's obligations under the Paris Climate Agreement, New York needs your leadership in Congress to enact tax policy that accelerates our transition to clean energy. Thank you very much for your leadership and consideration of this request to support S.2289.

Sincerely,

New York State Senate



Senator James Sanders, Jr.

New York State Assembly



Assemblymember Michael J. Cusick

³ <https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=38752>