WESTCHESTER COUNTY
BUSINESS LEADER
STATEMENT

IN SUPPORT OF IN-STATE
CLEAN ENERGY PRODUCTION

STATEMENT : APRIL 2019
WESTCHESTER COUNTY BUSINESS LEADERS TO ALBANY AND THEIR NEXT GOVERNOR:

LET’S STOP IMPORTING $50 BILLION IN OIL, GAS, AND COAL EACH YEAR.

Business Forward has organized hundreds of briefings across the country on clean energy, climate change, and energy security. These briefings have included two Secretaries of Energy, two EPA Administrators, dozens of U.S. Senators and Congressmen, and hundreds of other officials.

Over the past several months, we have asked business leaders in New York to sign the following letter in support of efforts to produce more clean energy in state. Over 1,500 business leaders, representing 58 of New York’s 64 counties, responded. 54 of those leaders are from Westchester County.
TO THE GOVERNOR AND STATE LEGISLATURE:

1. Keep Our Money Here.
New York spends $50 billion each year importing coal, gas, and oil. That $50 billion pays for jobs, schools and road repairs in places like Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Louisiana, and Texas. By switching to solar and wind, we can keep more of that spending here, creating jobs and fixing infrastructure across New York.

2. Everyone Benefits.
No matter where in the state we produce this power, all New Yorkers will benefit. Taxes paid by wind turbine operators in Oswego will help fund roads in New Rochelle. Grid upgrades in Syracuse will help reduce rates in Utica.

Clean energy economies favor many counties that deserve a break. Mill towns and farmland upstate enjoy some of the region’s steadiest and strongest winds, and new financing models for solar create business opportunities in urban areas. A New York energy boom could create jobs where we need them most.

4. If Not Clean Energy, What?
Few industries are as big, as local or as jobs-intensive as energy. Let’s bring some of that $50 billion back.

INSIGHT:
This transformative clean energy program can be accomplished at little to no cost to consumers. This is because the average cost of delivering a given supply of electricity from clean renewable sources will be roughly equal to, if not cheaper than, virtually all fossil-fuel based technologies.

Source: Clean Energy Investments for New York State, R. Pollin, H. Garrett-Peltier, J. Wicks-Lin, University of Massachusetts, November 2017

| FACT: ONLY 3 PERCENT OF THE ENERGY NEW YORK PRODUCES IS RENEWABLE |
| FACT: EXTREME WEATHER COSTS NEW YORK $10+ BILLION/YEAR DUE TO COASTAL FLOODING, AGRICULTURAL DISRUPTION, AND HIGHER ELECTRICITY COSTS (HEAT WAVES). BURNING OIL, COAL, AND GAS CAUSES ANOTHER $33 BILLION IN PUBLIC HEALTH COSTS EACH YEAR. |
| FACT: NEW YORK COULD CREATE 145,000 TO 160,000 NEW JOBS PER YEAR IF INVESTMENTS ARE MADE TO ACHIEVE A 50 PERCENT EMISSIONS REDUCTION BY 2030. |
By going green, jobs are created [and] the ancient tech can be eliminated. Cleaner water, air, and land. We cannot keep using ancient tech to solve tomorrow’s problem.

- WILLIAM ROSA
MOUNT VERNON

Tax incentives for clean energy providers and investors.

- AC PHILLIPS
CROTON ON HUDSON

[We should] work with the county executive, municipality admin, and vote for legislators who will work to make it happen.

- DIANE LOMBARDI
VALHALLA

Without a doubt, we should be creating clean energy jobs. We are in a battle for the earth and for our children and grandchildren’s benefit.

- MAIRIN LOFTUS
BUCHANAN
Incentives for solar power, subsidies for electric vehicles, incentives for green energy investment funds.

- BRUCE STOCKLER
LARCHMONT

[New York should invest in renewable generation technologies like] geothermal, solar, wind, wave, and small water wheels (no dams).

- TONI KING
PORT CHESTER

We should create green jobs in low-income neighborhoods.

- MICHAEL MANGINO
VALHALLA

Clean and sustainable power is a great long-term goal and government needs to provide leadership to promote clean and sustainable power through incentives and laws following a carrot and stick approach. Removing regulations might seem tempting to reduce business costs, but in the long term businesses will pay more for healthcare as their workers get sicker because of the added work space pollution as well as degrade their brand image when polluting the air and water more. Short term gains may seem like a good idea initially, but lose appeal over time. As Benjamin Franklin said, ‘The bitterness of poor quality remains long after the sweetness of low price is forgotten.’

- MIKE COBLE
PELHAM

I think if we give tax breaks to clean energy companies instead of fossil fuels, that will stimulate investment in clean energy. Taxing carbon emissions or punishing polluters financially might also help.

- MEREDITH DONAHUE
CROTON ON HUDSON

Give tax credits to clean energy companies that locate or expand in New York.

- JOHN W. GIBBON
LYONS

The state can bring clean energy jobs by making solar panels in New York.

- PATRICIA CHIULLI
YONKERS