HUDSON VALLEY BUSINESS LEADER STATEMENT

IN SUPPORT OF IN-STATE CLEAN ENERGY PRODUCTION

STATEMENT : APRIL 2019
HUDSON VALLEY 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. 182 of those leaders are from Hudson Valley.
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 farm-land 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*

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**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).*

**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.*
For the planet’s sake, it is past time to invest in, develop, and implement renewable energy resources. We need a healthy, thriving environment or there will be no life, forget making a living. There is no Planet B.

- PAMELA ELENA ALCID
  TROY, RENSSELAER COUNTY

Invest in solar, wind, and electric and phase out dirty oil.

- ANGELA BENESCH
  ALBANY, ALBANY COUNTY

New York State is at the forefront of smart grid solutions using energy storage, wind and solar power plus electric vehicles. Continue with the regulatory mandates of state power companies and continue setting an example for the rest of the nation and world. This will keep the jobs and investments in the state.

- ALYSSA OWENS
  CHATHAM, COLUMBIA COUNTY

Invest in solar and wind power.

- JANE GRAY
  ALBANY, ALBANY COUNTY
SIGNATORIES

Frank Kara, Poughkeepsie
Ganima Duffie, Troy
Gerard Strommer, Washingtonville
Gerard Zoehfeld, Lake Peekskill
German Pizarro, Monsey
Harold King, Newburgh
Heidi Lockwood, Hudson
Hillary Sheperd, Patterson
Hollis Griffin, Stony Point
Jackie Broder, Ellenville
Jacqueline Gardner, Hyde Park
Jaime Whitehurst, Nyack
Jane Gray, Albany
Jane LaLone, Poughkeepsie
Jane Stabile, Kingston
Jay Myrow, Warwick
Jean Robin Schwartz, Delmar
Jean Sweezy, Putnam Valley
Jeanine Harpis, Valatie
Jeffrey Haas, Coxsackie
Jeffrey Judd, Hillsdale
Jennifer Pugh, Harriman
Jenny Bowden, Middletown
Jenny Wonderling, Gardiner
Jessica Koock, New Paltz
Jo Cagg, Altamont
Joan McNerney, Ravena
Johannes Van Meeuwen, Kingston
John Cauvuto, Nyack
John Flynn, Highland
John Futia, Albany
Joseph Caird, Troy
Joyce Mosher, Delmar
Julian Ketchel, Red Hook
Julie Mitterholzer, Highland Mills
Karen Graves, Suffern
Karen McGovern, Chester
Karla Guerri, Troy
Kathleen Benedetti Fisher, Shokan
Kathy Dundorf, Kingston
Kellie Sandberg, New City
Ken Greene, Mahopac

“"We are an energy efficiency retrofit company and provide jobs in the green jobs field. Addressing clean energy is KEY to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving the environment, and solving respiratory health issues for millions of Americans."

- MELINDA MCKNIGHT
PORT EWEN, ULSTER COUNTY

“The state should invest in wind farms, solar, and hydro.”

- AMY ZAWITOWSKI
WATERVLIET, ALBANY COUNTY

“Living in a superfund area, I think we could use contaminated land to house solar, wind, and other energy [resources], and sell the energy locally.”

- CHARLENE PRAY
HOOSICK FALLS, RENSSELAER COUNTY

“By supporting (rather than taxing) alternative and sustainable energy. It’s a no-brainer, really!”

- VALENTIA LEANZA
AVERILL PARK, RENSSELAER COUNTY
We should have goals like Hawaii. Why should the Empire State be dependent on coal? We should be in the forefront of energy independence. Every store roof should have solar arrays on it; we should have more wind turbines; homes should have solar panels; state tax rate incentives should be used to encourage solar and wind energy production. Every new construction, [from] every private home to every enormous industrial building, should be mandated to include some type of solar or wind energy that would supply part of the energy need of that particular structure.

- PAT VAN ALSTYNE
TROY, RENSSELAER COUNTY

New York should concentrate on showing that there is money to be made in solar and wind energy. Money talks.

- MICHELLE WELLS
SAUGERTIES, ULSTER COUNTY

Encourage municipal and businesses solar installations, along with home-based installations.

- DEBBIE ST. ONGE
POUGHKEEPSIE, DUTCHESS COUNTY
More solar farms and solar panels on homes and businesses.

"Start up new businesses, make New York City attractive to these businesses. Get the word out."

- AUDREY FISHBURNE
FREEHOLD, GREENE COUNTY

First, we need to educate and train. A workforce in a field such as this needs intense schooling. We can use our SUNY/CUNY system to provide training right here. This will create jobs for instructors. Next, ensure that companies have incentives to endeavor into alternate energy sources. Once these sources are shown to provide adequate energy, they will no longer need incentives to make them appealing.

- PAT VAN ALSTYNE
TROY, RENSSELAER COUNTY

Solar training, lower installation costs with grants.

- BETH HOEFFNER
MONTGOMERY, ORANGE COUNTY
The great state of New York has to get with the program. We need to get ahead and make sure we are focusing on long-term sustainable policies.

- CLAUDETTE ALDEBOT
  ROCK TAVERN, ORANGE COUNTY

Affordable solar and residential wind turbines should be made more easily available with tax incentives. Mandated all new construction have solar and or wind turbines.

- MICHAEL ZARETSKY
  VALLEY COTTAGE, ROCKLAND COUNTY

We are an energy efficiency retrofit company and provide jobs in the green jobs field. Addressing clean energy is KEY to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving the environment and solving respiratory health issues for millions of Americans.

- MELINDA MCKNIGHT
  PORT EWEN, ULSTER COUNTY

Yes! New York should create clean energy jobs! Involve all communities by holding informational forums and brainstorming.

- SUSAN WOOSTER
  DELMAR, ALBANY COUNTY

We should create clean energy jobs. We could invest in underserved communities by hiring the jobless to clean up pollution and creating ways to stop flooding.

- DEBORAH BOOMHOWER
  ALBANY, ALBANY COUNTY