

STATEMENT : APRIL 2019

# ONONDAGA COUNTY BUSINESS LEADER STATEMENT

IN SUPPORT OF IN-STATE  
CLEAN ENERGY PRODUCTION



**BUSINESSFORWARD**  
FOUNDATION

**ONANDAGA 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. 63 of those leaders are from Onandaga County (including 27 from Syracuse).



## 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.

### 3. Jobs Where We Need Them, Environmental Justice.

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

#### 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.**

## SIGNATORIES

Anthony Tartaro, Syracuse  
Chris Curinga, Brewerton  
Christopher Grener, Syracuse  
Connie Pazaras, Syracuse  
David Amrod, Baldwinsville  
Debra Desocio, Fayetteville  
Debra L. Marks, Syracuse  
Denise Stathatos, Clay  
Eileen Taveniere, Manlius  
Evelyn Pendall, Syracuse  
Gale Bowens, Syracuse  
Gary Kelley, Syracuse  
Gary Pelkey, Syracuse  
George Dygert, Syracuse  
Janet Atkinson, Syracuse  
Joan Littlehale, Fabius  
Joann Smith, Syracuse  
Julie Larson, Syracuse  
Kathryn Palomino, Jamesville  
Laura Ivers, Syracuse  
Lois Gridley, Syracuse  
Loretta Johnson, Jordan  
Margaret Jones, Syracuse  
Mark Gustafson, Jordan  
Michelle Marais, Marcellus  
Naomi Bailey, Minoa  
Rasheedah Sutton, Syracuse  
Richard Bebla, Syracuse  
Rona Rich, Syracuse  
Roseann Demaria, Marietta  
Ruth Fitzgerald, Syracuse  
Samisha Gallo, Syracuse  
Sarah Mahaney, Syracuse  
Sheila Murphy, Jamesville  
Shri Ramakrishnan, Syracuse  
Susan Savion, Syracuse  
Thomas Madonna, Syracuse  
Toni Gionella, Cicero  
Wilton George, Syracuse

“

**New York State should be a leader in clean energy production and delivery. This will benefit our communities, current and future and generations to come.**

”

- DEBRA DESOCIO  
FAYETTEVILLE

“

**Investing in clean energy is the right thing to do, at the right time.**

”

- ANTHONY TARTARO  
SYRACUSE

“

**We need to discount the price of solar panels for residents and businesses. When we can offer low cost clean energy, everybody benefits.**

”

- DENISE STATHATOS  
CLAY

“ [New York should incentivize the] use of solar panels for residential homeowners. ”

- GALE BOWENS  
SYRACUSE

“ More wind energy. ”

- JANET ATKINSON  
SYRACUSE

“ [Invest in] clean energy for a cleaner future. ”

- NAOMI BAILEY  
MINOA

“ New York State should definitely work to bring solar, wind, and other renewable resources to New York State. If our federal government is going to drop the ball, it is imperative that the states begin to move forward in the interest of slowing climate change. This will also bring good paying jobs to New York State. It's a win-win for our communities. ”

- LORETTA JOHNSON  
JORDAN

“ Bringing wind, solar and creating education program for people here in New York state for these jobs, such as on-the-job training. ”

- JOANN SMITH  
SYRACUSE

“ Go green! ”

- JOAN LITTLEHALE  
FABIUS

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