October 16, 2026

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Chair Rory M. Christian
Michelle L. Phillips, Secretary to the Commission
New York State Public Service Commission
Empire State Plaza
Agency Building 3
Albany, NY 12223

RE: Proceeding on Motion of the Commission to Address Interconnection Reforms for Large Loads, Case Number 26-E-0045

Dear Governor Hochul, Chair Christian, and Secretary Phillips,

Pursuant to the *Notice of Positive Declaration and Availability of the Draft Scope* released on September 18, 2026 as part of this proceeding, relating to the *Draft Scoping Document for a Generic Environmental Impact Statement*, the public comment period for the draft scope will end on October 20 and the opportunity for public comment will not include a public hearing.

We urge you to provide a 120-day public comment period and hold at least five public hearings around the state. This is the baseline for public engagement established in the Responsible Data Center Development Act (A.11560/S.10642). Communities need enough time to understand the proposals, organize responses, and make their voices heard.

Data centers can significantly affect utility and water rates, air and water quality, noise levels, and local resources. The impacts will vary depending on each project's size, design, technology, and location. Hearing from communities across the state will help shape the Public Service Commission's review and inform the Data Center Interconnection Working Group established under Executive Order 62, as well as the staff white paper due in February.

The NYISO interconnection queue includes proposals for more than 12 GW of large-load projects, including data centers. If all were built and operating, they would draw more power than the estimated peak demand of every New York household combined. This new demand would add significant pressure to the grid, skyrocket utility costs for ratepayers, and intensify

competition for water and other local resources that communities depend on. It is irresponsible to push through any step of this proceeding without sufficient time for public input and no public hearings.

At the federal level, the government is making it easier for data centers and other large industrial facilities to avoid public scrutiny of their air pollution by removing a requirement that states seek public input on certain air permit applications. This shift serves corporate interests and concentrates power by limiting public oversight and shutting communities out of decisions that affect them. New York should move in the opposite direction, building public trust through stronger transparency and broader public participation.

We therefore respectfully ask you to apply the minimum public engagement required under the Responsible Data Center Development Act to this proceeding: a 120-day comment period, at least five hearings fairly distributed between upstate and downstate regions likely to be affected.

Sincerely,

Liz Krueger
28th Senate District

Anna Kelles
125th Assembly District

Kristen Gonzalez
59th Senate District

Didi Barrett
106th Assembly District

Erik Bottcher
47th Senate District

Jabari Brisport
25th Senate District

Samra Brouk
55th Senate District

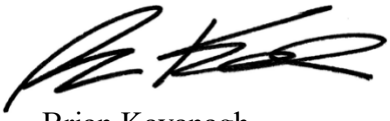
Cordell Cleare
30th Senate District

Leroy Comrie
14th Senate District

Patricia Fahy
46th Senate District

Nathalia Fernandez
34th Senate District

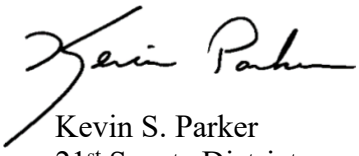
Robert Jackson
31st Senate District



Brian Kavanagh
27th Senate District

Michelle Hinchey
41st Senate District

Rachel May
48th Senate District



Kevin S. Parker
21st Senate District

Roxanne J. Persaud
19th Senate District

Gustavo Rivera
33rd Senate District

Julia Salazar
18th Senate District

José M. Serrano
29th Senate District

Lea Webb
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Chris Burdick
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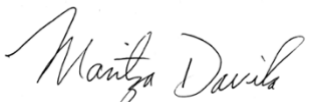
Michael S. Cashman
115th Assembly District

Sarah Clark
136th Assembly District

William Conrad
140th Assembly District



Martiza Davila
53rd Assembly District

Manny De Los Santos
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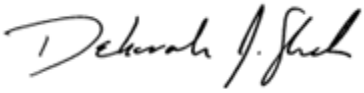
Emily Gallagher
50th Assembly District

Edward Gibbs
68th Assembly District



Deborah J. Glick
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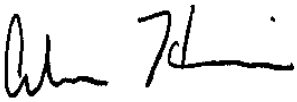

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Paula Elaine Kay
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Grace Lee
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Dana Levenberg
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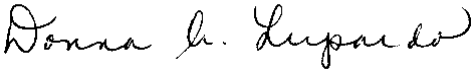

Donna A. Lupardo
123rd Assembly District

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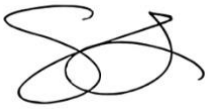

Steven Raga
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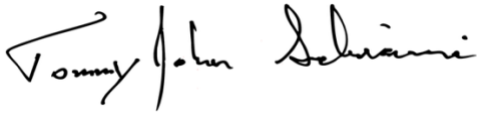

Tommy John Schiavoni
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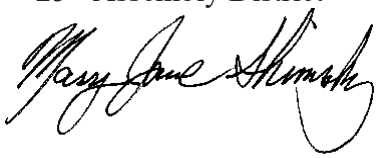

MaryJane Shimsky
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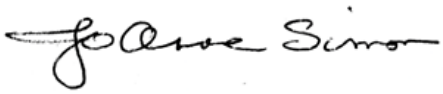

Jo Anne Simon
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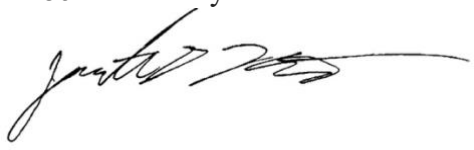
85th Assembly District

Chantel Jackson
79th Assembly District



Jonathan Rivera
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