

January 9, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

The Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) is in support of increasing Regional Greenhouse Gas Inventory (RGGI) funds to NYSERDA's Empower+ program. During a time of rising cost of living and a shrinking social safety net, Empower+ is an essential program to support LMI New Yorkers in lowering utility bills and increasing home comfort.

Through over a decade of work on energy issues in the North Country region as well as serving as the lead contractor for NYSERDA's Regional Clean Energy Hub, ANCA staff have witnessed the impact of Empower+ on residents' lives. Hub staff have worked closely with residents, contractors, partner organizations, and NYSERDA staff to improve access to Empower+ in geographically isolated areas of the North Country, frequently for vulnerable households that are struggling to afford monthly bills. Disruptions or slowdowns to Empower+ have direct impacts on families, as well as the contractors that implement the program. ANCA is thrilled to learn of the additional funds proposed for Empower+, and hopeful that these funds will work to bring more North Country households into the program. Additional funding for Empower+ is also directly in line with serving disadvantaged communities, a foundational component of the state Climate Act.

In conclusion, ANCA fully supports the new funding levels proposed for the Empower+ program in the Draft 2026 RGGI Operating Plan Amendment and respectfully recommends that the NYSERDA Board of Directors approve those funding levels at the Board meeting on January 26, 2026.

Thank you for your consideration.



Jill Henck

*Climate & Energy Program Director, Adirondack North Country Association*