
From: Barry Pendergrass [PERSONAL EMAIL REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 6:01 PM
To: erda.sm.rggiiprograms
Subject: Increased funding from RGGI for the EmPower+ program

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Dear Sirs/Mesdames,

I support the proposed increase in funding for the EmPower+ program through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). Empower+ improves the energy performance for homeowners and renters who cannot otherwise afford these cost-effective measures. Without this support, transition to renewable energy will be limited to more affluent sectors of our state. This would increase utility costs for those who can least afford it, and lock them into fossil fueled energy, which would be detrimental to the whole society. The Empower+ program achieves multiple benefits for New York State:

1. Lowers energy costs and improves home affordability for LMI households.
2. Advances a clean energy economy and the state's participation in 21st century energy technology.
3. Improves the overall reliability and affordability of the state energy system.
4. Reduces negative health impacts associated with fossil energy.
5. Expands our job sector with good-paying jobs for New Yorkers.
6. Money spent on energy efficiency stays in New York, improving our building stock while circulating earned wages through the state's economy.
7. Weatherization improvements and heat pumps save energy. This is equivalent to building more generation capacity without the long-term cost of importing energy.
8. Reduces our vulnerability to fluctuations in prices for imported energy.

I support a long term state commitment to the Empower+ program with the aim of converting as much of the building stock as possible to the best efficiency standards and home electrification.

Thank you for developing and improving the Empower+ program,

Barry Pendergrass
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