



January 9, 2026

RE: New York's Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Operating Plan Amendment for 2026

To Whom it May Concern:

Citizens Campaign for the Environment (CCE) is a 120,000 member non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization that works to empower communities and advocate solutions that protect public health and the natural environment. CCE advocates for advancing well-sited, environmentally responsible renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. We strongly support New York's Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) Operating Plan Amendment for 2026.

We commend the great work from Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) in implementing RGGI. RGGI has significantly reduced greenhouse gas emissions and directly benefits New Yorkers with cleaner air, lower energy bills, greater grid reliability, and good local jobs. The proposed Operating Plan Amendment for 2026 will allow NYSERDA to continue funding critical energy efficiency and renewable energy projects and bringing environmental and economic benefits to New York communities.

CCE supports the Operating Plan Amendment's adoption, particularly the proposal under the Large-Scale Generation Programs for a new Offshore Wind Predevelopment Support Program. Offshore wind presents a tremendous opportunity, not only to transition from dirty, polluting fossil fuels to renewables, but also to foster economic growth and create green jobs. New York has selected offshore wind projects that will power over 1 million homes, and we have the nation's first operational large-scale offshore wind farm off the south fork of Long Island.

Offshore wind projects are anticipated to create over 10,000 local jobs. New York's leadership will not only create good jobs and boost regional economies, it will also lead to significant health and community benefits. These offshore wind projects will allow for the phase out of polluting fossil fuel plants, leading to improved air quality and \$1 billion in health impact benefits for New York and prevent 100 premature deaths. It will also help stabilize the energy grid, since wind offshore blows fastest in the afternoon and evening when the electricity demand is highest.

The first commercial-scale offshore wind farm in America, the South Fork Wind Farm, became fully operational in 2024. It is located 35 miles off East Hampton and generates enough power for

70,000 homes for the south fork of LI. It has not only been supplying consistent, clean power to South Fork homes, it has been performing better than expected. This wind farm is American-made and created 1,000 jobs. Two more offshore wind farms, Sunrise Wind and Empire Wind, are already under construction and employing thousands of New Yorkers in our growing “wind-ustry”. Given the uncertainty at the federal level, it is more important than ever for New York to implement programs that enable offshore wind development and assist developers in moving projects forward.

This Offshore Wind Predevelopment Support Program would enable New York to co-invest in project-specific pre-development activities that accelerate project timelines and allow us to get offshore wind to our communities. This Program demonstrates to developers that projects are supported by the State, allowing them to continue investing in project development. The cost-sharing mechanism will also benefit ratepayers by reducing overall project costs and lowering prices while ensuring projects are successfully built as efficiently as possible. Ultimately, this Program will ensure clean energy at affordable, stable prices for New Yorkers and bring much-needed reliable energy to downstate New York.

New York has been a national leader in offshore wind, and offshore wind is already delivering significant benefits to our state. The Offshore Wind Predevelopment Support Program will allow New York to continue this progress, which is particularly crucial during this period of federal uncertainty.

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to engage in public input during the RGGI review process and strongly support the Offshore Wind Predevelopment Support Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Adrienne Esposito".

Adrienne Esposito

Executive Director