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To: erda.sm.rggiprograms
Subject: Public Comment in Support of Expanded EmPower+ Funding

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Dear NYSERDA,

On behalf of the Jewish Climate Action Network NYC (JCAN NY) I am grateful to NYSERDA for this opportunity to submit comments in response to the 2026 Draft RGGI Operating Plan Amendment presented at the December 18, 2025 RGGI stakeholder meeting.

JCAN NYC strongly supports the proposal to expand RGGI investment in EmPower+.

We are a faith-based organization devoted to harnessing Jewish teaching and values to improve the lives of all residents of New York State. There is no question that expanding the EmPower+ program is an important step in that direction.

EmPower+ helps low-and-moderate income (LMI) households save energy and money toward energy improvements made to their primary residences. It accomplishes this by helping fund the cost of energy efficiency and electrification improvements, including air sealing, insulation, heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, and electrical service and wiring upgrades. This improves energy efficiency, lowers consumer energy costs making utility bills more affordable, and creates thousands of good jobs in the energy sector. In every way, then, expanding EmPower+ benefits our State.

The 2025 NY State Energy Plan finds that electrification and energy efficiency are core strategies to drive energy savings in residential buildings, keeping buildings comfortable and supporting reliability of the electric grid. The 2025 NY State Energy Plan therefore recommends that the State continue to offer financial incentives to reduce upfront costs and motivate New Yorkers to make energy upgrades in existing buildings.

We urge NYSERDA to take this important step and expand EmPower+. Doing so will make New York State more affordable and green and improve our lives in both measurable and immeasurable ways.

Sincerely,

Jack M. Gorman MD
Jewish Climate Action Network NYC

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President and Co-Founder

Critica--a non-profit organization dedicated to improving public acceptance of science

"Think Deeply, Think Well"

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