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To: erda.sm.rggi@programs
Subject: Public Comment in Support of Expanded EmPower+ Funding

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I am writing as the coordinator of the Tompkins County Climate Protection Initiative (TCCPI) in support of increasing RGGI funding to the EmPower+ Program. EmPower+ helps low-and-moderate income (LMI) households save energy and money toward energy improvements made to their primary residence. The program focuses on one-to-four family households.

Nearly 60 percent of LMI New Yorkers live in one-to-four family homes, and over 40 percent of these households are renters.

Reducing energy consumption through energy efficiency and weatherization measures brings down energy costs for LMI households.

In addition, EmPower+ program is creating new clean energy jobs with building electrification and energy efficiency employers expecting increased need for key occupations over the next three years. Clean energy workers continue to earn higher wages and benefits than other workers. Furthermore, building electrification and energy efficiency added the greatest number of jobs in 2024, increasing by over 5,400 jobs at a rate of 4%.

For these and other reasons, TCCPI strongly supports increasing RGGI funding to the EmPower+ Program. Thank you for considering these comments in your deliberations.

Sincerely,
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