

# STEBEN COUNTY IDA

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

MAKING CONNECTIONS  
CREATING SOLUTIONS

December 20, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Steuben County Industrial Development Agency (IDA), I would like to offer the following comments regarding the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) Operating Plan Amendments.

The Southern Tier region is a state leader in the clean energy economy with unique assets in New York State, including anchor companies committed to investing in future clean energy technologies. The region also has nationally recognized research universities in this field including Binghamton University, Cornell University, and Alfred University. This has led to a \$63 million Regional Build Back Better Award to the New Energy New York coalition led by Binghamton University. Along with Build Back Better funding, the region has also been designated a Tech Hub for battery innovation by the Economic Development Administration

The Southern Tier also generates the most onshore wind and solar power in New York State. Between 2018 and 2022, the region's generation capacity grew by 1,505 MW with over \$1 billion being invested just this past year. Steuben County leads the region in investment and generation with 500 MW already in generation and an additional 832 MW from projects slated for construction in the next 5 years. Steuben County also leads the region in new clean energy technologies including the State's first landfill gas recovery project which will deliver grid compliant RNG, producing a renewable substitute for fossil-based natural gas. Steuben County is also realizing investments in hydrogen fuel production with recent letters of intent signed to develop the region's hydrogen production facility.

New York's commitment to stimulating the growth of clean energy generation and clean tech manufacturing will not only help build the State's capacity for long-term carbon emissions reduction but provide an opportunity to grow this important industry sector. We encourage the approval of this amendment which provides resources to invest in clean energy business development activities such as supply chain development, recruiting campaigns, planning assistance, and analytical work to expand New York State manufacturers and suppliers in this space.

As a result of the opportunities outlined above, we are leading an effort to develop a regional clean tech business attraction strategy. The approval of funding in the proposed amendments is critical to support these efforts we are undertaking to induce investment in the clean energy/clean tech industry in our region.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.



James C. Johnson  
Executive Director