**2026 NYSAC Resolution**
**Board of Directors Meeting**
**June 9, 2026**
**Resolution #1**

## Resolution Urging a Renewed Focus on Meeting Energy Needs for Statewide Growth and Sustained Economic Development

**WHEREAS,** New York State, and many parts of the nation, are facing unprecedented energy challenges that are resulting in higher heating and electricity costs, the loss of key farmland, delayed renewable projects, limited economic development and housing creation, and the overall affordability factors facing the state; and

**WHEREAS,** New York's counties are working closely with state and local leaders at the forefront of housing and economic development efforts, and we recognize that reliable electricity is a foundation to ensure the residents and businesses in our communities can thrive; and

**WHEREAS,** county leaders are working to expand housing, enhance affordability, and drive manufacturing, industry and business innovation in our communities, but we are frustrated by the lack of available and reliable energy to fulfill these goals; and

**WHEREAS,** to meet the state's climate goals while supporting growth, we must prioritize electricity generation, infrastructure upgrades, and expanded access to affordable energy; and

**WHEREAS,** the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) has set ambitious milestones for sourcing electricity from renewable energy, including achieving 70% renewable electricity by 2030 and 100% zero-emission electricity by 2040; and

**WHEREAS,** the State Legislature in 2026 revised these goals in recognition of energy market changes since its original adoption, adjusting the milestones to accommodate increasing electricity demand and costs, decreasing generation, and the expense of upgrading the electricity grid; and

**WHEREAS,** we need a balanced and diversified approach to electric generation sources with everything on the menu: natural gas, fossil fuels, nuclear, and renewable energy from water, wind, solar, and geothermal heat pumps; and

**WHEREAS,** to build equitable and sustainable communities, we must focus on investing in the critical energy infrastructure that supports economic development, housing, and affordability while transitioning to renewable energy; and

**WHEREAS,** meeting the state's renewable energy targets requires a siting process that works for communities—yet the current Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission (ORES) framework routinely overrides local land-use authority, leaving

counties with insufficient voice in decisions that have lasting consequences for their land, infrastructure, and economies; and

**WHEREAS,** transmission and interconnection constraints continue to steer renewable energy development onto prime farmland rather than toward brownfields, landfills, and other underutilized sites that communities would prefer—making grid investment not just an energy priority but a farmland protection strategy; and

**WHEREAS,** this is not only an environmental imperative but also an economic and social one; and

**WHEREAS,** New York should leverage its wealth of world-renowned researchers and experts to build a better electricity grid for tomorrow; and

**WHEREAS,** using fossil fuels is an obvious and necessary component of meeting today's energy needs, which means using our access to natural gas as a bridge to the renewable energy sources of tomorrow; and

**WHEREAS,** counties are cognizant that energy generation facilities have historically been located in disadvantaged communities, and our solutions to this issue must be socially just.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) urges state leaders, energy planners, and stakeholders to support a more robust, diversified, and affordable energy supply for communities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** NYSAC calls on state leaders to align efforts with the needs of local communities for new housing projects, economic development, and stronger grid infrastructure amid the state's renewable energy transition; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that state leaders should create a centralized energy czar, continue exploring nuclear energy creation options, leverage access to natural gas, and expand state investments in the electricity grid infrastructure; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that NYSAC believes there must be a renewed focus on a robust and affordable energy system that prioritizes:

- ensuring communities have access to affordable and reliable electricity to attract businesses and create well-paying jobs;
- expanding generation capacity to meet rising energy demands as the state electrifies heating, transportation, and other sectors;
- upgrading transmission and distribution systems to ensure energy reliability and resilience while accommodating renewable sources;
- expanding incentives for New Yorkers to accept and promote smart and effective renewable projects;
- ensuring ORES decisions on siting renewable energy projects do not override local land-use authority; and

- state policies that prioritize underutilized and contaminated sites and state-owned land, rather than converting prime agricultural soils; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, the Department of Public Service, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, and all others deemed necessary and proper.