



# ALLIANCE TO SAVE ENERGY

Creating an *Energy-Efficient* World

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APR 11 2005

AND THE  
ENVIRONMENT  
M. J. D. Alvia

April 7, 2005

Governor George E. Pataki  
State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Pataki:

I write today on behalf of the Alliance to Save Energy to urge you to **line-item veto** Section 3669 of Article VII in this year's state budget. We believe this measure, if enacted into law, will cause severe harm to New York's exemplary energy-efficiency programs run by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).

Currently, NYSERDA administers **funds from** the System Benefit Charge (SBC) to operate cost-effective, nationally acclaimed energy-savings programs. This provision would put control of the SBC funds in the hands of the legislature, which then would make annual appropriations to NYSERDA.

This funding scheme would be counterproductive for several **reasons**. First, NYSERDA's ability to continue its rapid and effective implementation of energy-saving programs could be seriously hampered by an uncertain and often delay-ridden appropriations process. Second, the proposed funding scenario could lead to the legislature's siphoning off **SBC funds** – which are expressly collected to fund energy-savings programs – to fill in budget gaps during tight fiscal years.

The Alliance to Save Energy is a 27-year old coalition of business, political, and environmental leaders founded by Sens. Charles Percy and Hubert Humphrey. For nearly three decades we have pursued our mission of promoting energy efficiency worldwide to achieve a healthier economy, a cleaner environment, and greater energy security. Our Board of Directors is quite familiar with NYSERDA's programs due to active involvement of Board member Peter Smith, president of NYSERDA, and they hold New York's energy-efficiency programs in the highest regard.

Since the advent of the SBC, NYSERDA's nationally-renowned **energy-efficiency** programs have saved New Yorkers \$194 million annually in energy bills, created and retained 4,200 jobs, and produced environmental benefits that equate to removing 203,000 cars **from** New York roadways. The continued success of these programs depends upon a reliable, long-term funding stream that is unencumbered by the politics that surround the appropriations process.

The Alliance has long appreciated New York's championship of energy-efficiency policies and programs, as well as your own personal commitment to these issues as governor. I hope you will agree that this provision must not stand, and that you will line-item veto this section of the budget. I would be happy to discuss this situation with you, or you can contact Harry Misuriello, the Alliance's director of buildings and utility programs at (202) 530-2214, if you or your staff have any questions or would like more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kateri Callahan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**Kateri Callahan**

cc: Charles Fox, Deputy Secretary to the Governor, Office of Governor **Pataki**  
Peter Smith, President, **NYSERDA**  
Board of Directors, Alliance to Save Energy

Enclosures