

Gautam Sethi  
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Tivoli, New York, 12583

March 3, 2005

Jaclyn A. Brillling, Secretary  
New York State Public Service Commission  
3 Empire State Plaza  
Albany, New York 12223-1350

Re: System Benefit Charge Renewal

Dear Ms. Brillling:

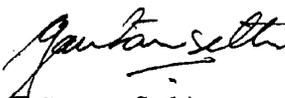
I am writing in support of the NYS Public Service Commission (PSC) System Benefit Charge (SBC) renewal, and of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) projects that are funded through the SBC program.

Many environmental issues – the protection of water resources, regulation of mercury or particulate matter, and the study of acid deposition, to take just a few – are ubiquitous. Policy makers in different states and at different levels of government are often forced to cope with these problems in isolation, and without systematic access to the current scientific knowledge. One of the primary goals of the Environmental Monitoring, Evaluation, and Protection (EMEP) program is to improve the quality of environmental policies by funding cutting-edge scientific research. By linking science and policy, EMEP furthers the knowledge of policy-makers about the scientific aspects of pollution from electricity production and through these linkages informs the appropriate individuals, organizations and agencies as to how this knowledge can help improve the quality of the environment in New York State while meeting energy needs and protecting human health.

In my view, the continuation of these studies is imperative. As our work at the Bard Center for Environmental Policy demonstrates, the studies in themselves while valuable are not sufficient to move us towards environment solutions. The policy relevance of the scientific results must be conveyed to the decision makers of our State if we are to build on the progress made thus far in understanding the nature of New York's air pollution and in establishing the sources of air pollutants in the State's airshed.

As educator, policy analyst, as well as taxpayer and ratepayer, I would like to see NYSERDA programs continue with full funding through the SBC to improve the lives of New Yorkers and the state of the environment in New York.

Sincerely,



Gautam Sethi  
Assistant Professor of Economics