

P.O. Box 248
Ray Brook, NY 12977
2 March, 2005

Jaclyn Brillling, Secretary
New York State Public Service Commission
3 Empire Plaza
Albany, New York 12233-1350

Re: Comments on Case 05-M-0090 – System Benefits Charge III

Dear Jaclyn,

I am writing in support of continuing and increasing the funding level of the System Benefits Charge (SBC) to provide funding for a variety of energy related programs. The SBC has been extremely effective in supporting a wide variety of programs that, in all likelihood, would not have been (or would have taken much longer to be) implemented without the SBC.

Through the programs funded by the SBC, the public has a much better awareness and understanding of the importance of energy conservation, including implementing energy efficient practices and the availability of renewable energy sources. Homeowners and businesses have received incentives to increase energy efficiency and utilization of renewable energy sources, resulting in overall lowering of energy use and energy-related pollution in New York State. The diversity of renewable energy industries has also increased significantly because of incentives from SBC supported programs, providing New York residents with a greater variety of opportunities to obtain energy from renewable, non-polluting sources. The estimated savings in energy costs through increased energy efficiency indicate that the SBC is more than paying for itself in energy savings.

The SBC has also provided critical funding to improve environmental quality through research into environmental and human health related impacts of energy pollution and into developing technologies to decrease energy pollution, particularly sulfur dioxide, nitrous oxide, and carbon dioxide emissions, pollutants that contribute to acid deposition and climate change. These research programs provide much needed information for policy makers to understand the extent that energy pollutants affect human and ecological health, and the importance of implementing regulations and efficient energy technology to reduce these pollutants.

I strongly encourage the Public Service Commission to extend and expand the funding and scope of the SBC program in New York. This program has been highly effective at increasing public awareness and utilization of energy efficient measures, as well as increasing our understanding of the environmental impacts of energy pollution and implementation of technology and alternative energy programs to reduce energy pollution.

Sincerely,

Nina Schoch, M.S., D.V.M.