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William M. Flynn
Chairman
New York State Public Service Commission 3
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12223-1350

Re: Letter of Support for SBC III

Dear Mr. Flynn:

It is with great enthusiasm I support the SBC III proposal for the Energy Smart Communities program for a 3rd term. I, the Energy Smart Communities Co-coordinator for NYC, along with Marcello Rios of the South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corp. (SoBro) have entered late into the program due to added building complexity and tooling-up challenges inherent in New York City. Nonetheless, the program for the last 18 months has, and is being implemented successfully in a steady and progressive manner.

The SBC program takes NYSEDA's nationally leading array of programs in energy efficiency, awareness, and alternative energy sources to the next level by providing direct and tailored connection to a community's residential, business, and institutional energy needs in a cost-effective manner.

The SBC allows for the multi purpose and scope of the Energy Smart Communities program to provide for additional resources, guidance, technical assistance, financing, monitoring, commissioning, and training to be applied in transforming the state's energy market. With the advent of energy deregulation in NYS instituted by Gov. Pataki several years ago, the Energy Smart Communities program picks up on the consumption side of the equation, providing the latest in energy measures technology, technical assistance, and financing made possible only under the public-private partnership model, incorporating the best of both worlds; innovation of the private sector and assurances under government's public purpose.

In my own realm, working with many not-for-profit community-based development organizations in NYC, the Energy Smart Communities program raises the organizational effectiveness of these groups by opening up their offices to provide Energy Smart information sessions to their constituencies. This in turn evolves to increased outreach impact and referrals on the part of these CBOs and hence raises their capacity building efforts. This model has worked effectively with locally sponsored legislator events and energy policy groups as well.

On the low and moderate income front, the Energy Smart Communities programs assure affordable housing energy costs. Low & moderate income groups are most affected by energy costs absolutely and relatively, often living in the shoddiest of buildings.

The Building Performance Institute's third party certification process is assuring the highest standards in building science, know-how, and training. It will pave the way for a new wave of energy workers as raters, installers, manufacturers and marketers, giving NYS an economic boost. Along with distributed energy plans in the wings for CHP, PV, wind, and fuel cells powered by methane from garbage dumps in Staten Island, will show great promise in the years ahead.

NYC also has a special electric power requirement to provide 80% of peak load within its borders. With energy use rising in the state more than one and one-half times the population rate, and increased development activity being proposed in NYC lately; the fastest, shortest, and least costly solution is the continuation of the Energy Smart programs without interruption. The alternatives are too frightening, too costly in terms of lives and environment, or just not ready yet.

Based on the aforementioned very positive assessment of the programs and the continuing importance of the public benefit impacts in energy savings, economic development and environmental improvement, The SBC should continue at a minimum of 5 more years and at \$150 million per year.

NYSERDA should continue on as the SBC administrator.

The program portfolio should continue to focus on energy efficiency, load management, low-income and research and development.

A major system-wide gas efficiency component should be included with additional funding, and not supplanting any of the electricity funding.

Sincerely,

Dean Zias
NYC Outreach Coordinator
Energy Smart Communities, a program of NYSERDA and the Dept. of Energy's Rebuild America