

Energizing the New York State Economy



By William M. Mooney, Jr.

There is no question that we are mired in a national economic crisis.

Local governments across our state are raising property taxes and cutting services just to stay afloat. Rainy day funds have become a fond memory. Taxpayers and businesses are struggling just to make ends meet.

But in every crisis, there is opportunity.

And now there is no better opportunity for New Yorkers to revive our sluggish economy – and secure our energy future.

The key to weathering this economic storm is creating good local jobs, fostering a positive climate for business creation, and enabling New Yorkers to keep more of what they earn.

Investment in a modern energy infrastructure, and a new generation of clean, efficient power plants will do just that.

Study after study clearly demonstrates there is an energy crisis faced by New Yorkers. This is why we need a modern energy infrastructure, new power plants and a new, comprehensive power plant siting law.

Building new plants will stabilize our grid, create new jobs, facilitate investment, and drive the cost of energy down. New power plants also create hundreds of jobs during the construction phase and many more permanent jobs when operational. Construction and operation of these plants pump millions of tax dollars into local economies from the power producers, employees and businesses.

One clear example is Indian Point.

Employing more than a thousand highly skilled professionals, and generating \$750 million for the local downstate economy annually, it operates emission-free and provides reliable, low-cost electricity for Westchester County and much of the downstate region.

Today's economic crisis truly offers our state the unique opportunity to secure our energy future.

Investing in a new generation of clean, efficient power plants and upgrading our energy infrastructure will create new jobs, increase energy supply, and lower costs for all New Yorkers. This is change we can all believe in.

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