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**Statement by Energy Coalition Chairman
on BCNYS report “*Short Circuiting New York’s Economy*”**

New York, NY/March 4, 2010 – Arthur “Jerry” Kremer, former chairman of the New York Assembly Ways & Means Committee and Chairman of the New York Affordable Reliable Electricity Alliance (New York AREA) today issued the following statement in conjunction with the release of “*Short-circuiting New York’s Recovery*”, issued by Public Policy Institute, the research affiliate of The Business Council of New York State, Inc. (BCNYS)

“It is no secret that growing energy taxes have placed New York State at a competitive disadvantage, and are clearly hampering New York’s economic recovery. Today’s report illustrates the vast challenges faced by working families and small businesses across the Empire State and merits careful review by policy makers.

“New Yorkers would be well served by the reduction of regressive energy surcharges, fees and taxes that hurt working families and small businesses most. These prudent steps will spur economic growth, enhance consumer confidence and expedite New York’s economic recovery.”

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About New York AREA: Founded in November 2003, the New York Affordable Reliable Electricity Alliance (New York AREA) is a diverse group of more than 150 business, labor, and community groups whose mission and purpose is to ensure that the New York metropolitan area has an ample and reliable electricity supply, and economic prosperity for years to come. New York AREA helps to educate policy makers, businesses, and the general public regarding the necessity and importance of safe, low-cost, reliable, clean electricity.

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