



Current design good for energy

Gavin Donohue's May 29 commentary, "Free market means cheaper power," offers a comprehensive explanation of why New York must stick with the competitive market structure for electricity.

Mr. Donohue documents that the current system has increased power plant efficiency, reduced greenhouse gas emissions and removed a great deal of risk from consumers. Returning to the monopolistic energy practices of a decade ago would undo these gains and increase prices -- at the worst possible time.

In addition to keeping the well-functioning market structure, lawmakers should be working to pass a new Article X siting law that is long overdue.

By reinstating more uniform power plant proposal and siting procedures, New York will open the door to new investments and jobs. New plants in the areas where power is needed also will increase competition and reliability, a good thing for economic recovery and for residential and business customers across the state.

Instead of trying to move unwisely backward by claiming to solve the high cost of energy, Albany legislators need to move forward with legislation that encourages investment, jobs and the current competitive design.

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