2025 NYSAC Legislative Conference Standing Committee on Climate Action, Energy & Environment Resolution #6

Resolution Calling for Open Access to Community Energy Data to Support Local Climate Action and Market Innovation

WHEREAS, the Climate Action Council's Final Scoping Plan calls for developing a statewide dashboard of community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventories to promote local climate action planning, monitor equity considerations, measure progress, and ensure data consistency at the county and municipal levels; and

WHEREAS, utility data on energy use and consumption within municipal boundaries, presented in aggregated and anonymized form, is critical for local climate action planning and greenhouse gas inventories; and

WHEREAS, the Public Service Commission (PSC) established the Integrated Energy Data Resource (IEDR) program to provide public access to aggregated and anonymized energy-related information from regulated utilities on a statewide data platform; and

WHEREAS, the IEDR, as an open-source platform, was intended to empower the market by facilitating broad access to data that could be used by local and county governments, universities, businesses, policymakers, students, and other stakeholders to develop innovative studies, tools, applications, and research tracking energy use and consumption, GHG emissions, and adoption of clean energy technologies; and

WHEREAS, the Public Service Commission has recently moved to vest ownership of this platform in a private equity contractor, with privileged rights to data and public funding to build and own all use cases it serves; and

WHEREAS, this structure prevents local governments and other stakeholders from accessing the same data to develop open-source products and tools that can be used to benefit communities and advance local climate goals; and

WHEREAS, requiring communities to pay a private company for access to public energy data does not serve the public interest, creates an unnecessary barrier to climate action, and stifles innovation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) calls on the Public Service Commission to restructure the IEDR program to ensure broad, non-discriminatory access to anonymized energy data; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NYSAC opposes granting any private entity exclusive intellectual property rights over public energy data and analytics that should be accessible to advance local climate initiatives and foster market innovation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NYSAC urges the State to invest in technical assistance and support to help local governments effectively utilize energy data for climate planning, consistent with the Scoping Plan, rather than restricting data access through exclusive private control; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, the Chair and CEO of the PSC, and all others deemed necessary and proper.