

1 **2024 NYSAC Fall Seminar**  
2 **Standing Committee on Climate Action, Energy & Environment**  
3 **Resolution #3**

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5 **Resolution Calling on the Public Service Commission to Require Utilities to**  
6 **Engage with Localities in Planning for Distribution System Upgrades and**  
7 **Clean Energy Integration**  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, as New York State works to achieve the Climate Act goals, effective  
10 collaboration between utilities and government is crucial for meeting the increased  
11 demand for clean energy and ensuring grid reliability; and  
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13 **WHEREAS**, grid modernization and capacity improvements are essential to support  
14 this demand and to integrate new technologies that enhance efficiency; and  
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16 **WHEREAS**, prioritizing distribution system upgrades in areas designated for  
17 development, based on local zoning and planning priorities, is necessary to ensure  
18 infrastructure investments align with community growth and development goals; and  
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20 **WHEREAS**, utilities must be held responsible for making incremental upgrades to the  
21 distribution system to meet the evolving needs of communities and to support a smooth  
22 transition to clean energy sources; and  
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24 **WHEREAS**, because utility incentives are not necessarily aligned with clean energy  
25 goals, requiring utilities to engage with localities in the planning process can ensure that  
26 upgrades are made in a manner consistent with local sustainability objectives; and  
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28 **WHEREAS**, tools like Scenic Hudson’s mapping tool, which identifies optimal  
29 locations for renewable energy, demonstrate that the best places for renewable energy  
30 development often lack capacity on local circuits, underscoring the need for utilities to  
31 consult with municipalities during the planning process; and  
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33 **WHEREAS**, home energy storage programs offered by utilities in Vermont, such as  
34 Green Mountain Power’s Tesla Powerwall and Bring Your Own Device programs, have  
35 reduced grid demand, enhanced resilience, and provided cost savings for all customers,  
36 highlighting the opportunity for more innovation in New York State.  
37

38 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of  
39 Counties (NYSAC) calls on the Public Service Commission (PSC) to require utilities to  
40 actively engage with local governments in planning for and implementing distribution

1 system upgrades, ensuring that these upgrades are aligned with local zoning, planning  
2 priorities, and clean energy goals; and  
3  
4 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that utilities be required to make incremental  
5 upgrades to the distribution system in collaboration with local communities to keep  
6 pace with community development and clean energy integration; and  
7  
8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that PSC support the development of and use of tools  
9 and technologies that can aid municipalities in identifying the best locations for  
10 renewable energy development; and  
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12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a comprehensive study be conducted to assess  
13 the financial impact of state climate policies on utility costs, with the aim of identifying  
14 strategies to reduce the burden on consumers and ensuring that these policies are  
15 implemented in an equitable and just manner; and  
16  
17 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC supports the adoption of innovative  
18 practices, such as integrating household batteries into utility billing to reduce grid  
19 demand, and calls for similar initiatives to be explored and implemented in New York  
20 State; and  
21  
22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, this resolution shall be forwarded to the counties of  
23 New York State urging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and  
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25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to  
26 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, the New York State Public  
27 Service Commission (PSC), the New York State Energy Research and Development  
28 Authority (NYSERDA), and all others deemed necessary and proper.