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GOVERNOR PATERSON SIGNS LEGISLATION TO CONTINUE POWER FOR JOBS PROGRAM

Signs Bill at Byrne Dairy in Syracuse, One of the Hundreds of New York Companies that Benefit from the Program

Key Economic Development Program Saves Businesses Millions in Energy Costs

Governor David A. Paterson today signed into law a bill to continue Power For Jobs (PFJ), a critical economic development program aimed at reducing the high costs of electricity for hundreds of New York businesses and not-for-profit organizations. Modeled after a proposal that Governor Paterson submitted to the State Legislature this year, the legislation authorizes the New York Power Authority (NYPA) to continue providing rebates or low-cost electricity to customers in the PFJ program and another low-cost power program, Energy Cost Savings Benefit (ECSB). The Governor signed the legislation at Byrne Dairy in Syracuse, one of the participants that benefit from the PFJ program.

"By leveraging our State's abundant and renewable energy resources, as well as NYPA's purchasing power, we have been able to secure private investment and hundreds of thousands of jobs for New Yorkers. The Power For Jobs program is a critical economic development tool, and signing this bill could not wait another day," said Governor Paterson. "Now, the Power Authority must immediately work with the hundreds of enterprises throughout the State to ensure that the benefits of these low-cost energy programs can be continued without further delay. We must do everything we can to protect these jobs and businesses."

The PFJ and ECSB programs support nearly 330,000 jobs at businesses and not-for profit organizations across the New York. Participants receive benefits either through a cash rebate from NYPA to offset their electricity costs or through a discount on utility delivery rates or through NYPA financial subsidies of wholesale electricity prices. In Central New York alone, PJJ and ECSB support approximately 35,000 jobs at over 100 companies.

Senate President Malcolm A. Smith said: "New York is facing its worst fiscal crisis in decades, and during times of economic distress, creating and protecting jobs is our top priority. Hundreds of businesses across the State rely on low-cost power to create and maintain good-paying jobs for New Yorkers. The Power For Jobs program is a lifeline for manufacturers in communities from Syracuse to Stonybrook, and it was essential we extended this highly successful program as we work to get our economy back on track."

Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver said: "Extending the Power For Jobs program gives participating businesses the assurance that they will continue to receive discounted electricity or energy rebates for pledging to produce and sustain jobs within New York. This crucial investment will keep businesses investing in our State, and creating jobs that will help our economic recovery during these tough times."

Governor Paterson has requested that NYPA do everything in its power to ensure a seamless transition and assist any of the approximately 550 customers that may have been affected by the delay in continuing these vital programs.

The legislation extends the two programs to May 15, 2010, allowing current customers to continue to benefit from lower electric rates provided they remain in compliance with the job retention criteria of the initiatives.

In an effort to promote energy conservation and efficient use of electricity, the legislation also directs NYPA to undertake energy audits at a select number of economic development customers. The audits will assess a customer's electricity use to determine cost-effective measures that could be employed to reduce energy costs, energy use, or improve the efficiency of buildings, building systems, equipment, processes or operations. NYPA will report the results of the audits to the Governor, the Senate and Assembly and the State Comptroller by February of 2010.

Senator Darrel J. Aubertine, Chair of the Senate Committee on Energy said: "Power For Jobs is an economic development tool that works for New York State. It has created or preserved jobs for more than a quarter of a million New Yorkers, including more than 5,000 jobs in Oswego, Jefferson and St. Lawrence counties. This program not only benefits our friends and neighbors working at companies such as Byrne Dairy here in Syracuse, and in my district at Birds Eye Foods in Fulton, Crowley in LaFargeville and Corning in Canton. The benefits extend also to our farms and throughout our communities. Every job is important and moving forward we must build on this program's success and iron out a long term extension."

Senator David J. Valesky said: "The Power For Jobs program is integral to the success of many companies in Central New York, and I am pleased that the extension is being signed into law. Programs like Power For Jobs, which protects jobs and provides access to low-cost power, also help to build a business-friendly environment in Upstate New York, which is especially important as we move toward economic recovery."

Assemblyman Kevin Cahill, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Energy, said: "New York's ability to retain and attract new businesses would be severely diminished without these important tools for making energy more affordable to power intensive employers. This legislation gives the hundreds of businesses, not-for-profits and manufacturers relying on these programs the assurance that their benefits will continue through next year. It also jumpstarts the process of creating a long-term low cost power program that will provide businesses with the certainty they need to make the serious investments to create the jobs we need here in New York."

Assemblyman William B. Magnarelli said: "The Power For Jobs and Energy Cost Savings Benefit programs are critical economic development tools for Upstate New York businesses. The benefits from these programs create an economically viable marketplace for industries with high energy needs, including manufacturers and high-tech service providers. These programs have proven track records of creating and retaining jobs in Central and Upstate New York, and it is essential that the programs be restarted as quickly as possible so that all of the programs' participants are held harmless."

NYPA President and Chief Executive Officer Richard M. Kessel said: "Lower cost energy is especially vital as businesses and other organizations struggle to cut their costs in response to the downturn in the national economy. This further underscores the importance of the Power For Jobs and Energy Cost Savings Benefit Programs and the reason we're eager to continue the programs and their benefits."

Senior Director of Government Affairs for The Business Council of New York State Ken Pokalsky said: "We appreciate the extension of Power For Jobs, and the State's economic development power programs. The savings provided through these programs are vital to hundreds of employers and thousands of workers across New York. While this extension is important, it is a ten-month solution to a long-term problem. High energy costs affect many energy intensive operations in New York, and we urge the Administration and legislature to work with business to adopt a long term economic development power program."

NYPA arranges for the energy supplies through the State's competitive electricity markets and provides critical financial support for the programs. Over the years, the savings to customers have typically ranged from 10 to 20 percent for their allocations. In 2008 alone, it is estimated the PFJ and ECSB saved its customers approximately \$125 million in energy costs.