November 7, 2016

RE: Support for Zero Emission Vehicles

Dear Governor Cuomo,

We, the undersigned, are writing to you today to express our support for smart and effective policies that will help put more zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) on the roads here in New York, while giving our residents cleaner air to breathe and putting money back in their pockets.

ZEVs drastically cut down on our use of oil and improve our national security while producing little to no zero tailpipe emissions. Since the American Lung Association gave many cities in our region a failing or poor grade for our air quality in 2015, more ZEVs on the road means drastically improved air quality for our residents. Moreover, the average cost of fueling a car with electricity is roughly the same as paying for gas at about $1.25/gallon – prices our state has not seen in over a decade. This means the money not spent on gas can be invested back into our communities and state.

Consumer demand for these vehicles is growing. In the first half of 2016, U.S. ZEV sales have increased about 20% over the first half of 2015. At the local level, we’re committed to doing our part to accommodate this demand and accelerate ZEV adoption through a variety of programs such as growing our municipal ZEV fleets and installing public and workplace electric vehicle charging stations. Local programs coupled with state, regional and federal programs can go a long way towards accelerating the ZEV market. In particular, we look forward to working with your administration to achieve the goals of the Zero Emission Vehicle program, which calls for 850,000 ZEVs to be on the road in New York by 2025.

Thanks to New York’s adoption of this ZEV program, the future for electric vehicles in our state is bright – especially with the elimination of the travel loophole exemption that will require automakers to begin selling a growing percentage of ZEVs in our state and eight others starting in 2018. We urge you to support the California Air Resources Board to continue its strong ZEV policies that allow states like New York to continue being a leader in advancing the ZEV marketplace.

Respectfully,

Kathy Sheehan
Mayor, City of Albany

Michelena Maher
Mayor, Wurtsboro

Peter Scherer
Mayor, Village of Pleasantville

Steve Noble
Mayor, City of Kingston

Paul Dyster
Mayor, City of Niagara Falls

Lovely Warren
Mayor, City of Rochester

Svante Myrick
Mayor, City of Ithaca

Tony LaFountain
Penfield Town Supervisor
David Seely  
Irondequoit Town Supervisor

Jean Kessner  
Syracuse Common Councilor

Kathleen Joy  
Syracuse Common Councilor

William Reinhardt  
Albany County Legislator

Kari Rieser  
Dutchess County Legislator

Joel Tyner  
Dutchess County Legislator

Francena Amparo  
Dutchess County Legislator

Manna Jo Greene  
Ulster County Legislator

Larry Cantwell  
East Hampton Town Supervisor

John Clarkson  
Bethlehem Town Supervisor

David VanLuven  
Bethlehem Town Board Member

Doris David  
Bethlehem Town Board Member

Jane Smolinsky  
Bethlehem Planning Board Chair

cc: California Air Resources Board  
Basil Seggos, NYS DEC Commissioner