



New York State Democratic Rural Conference (DRC)

Whereas, our state leaders are considering proposals to solve New York State's long term energy grid needs;

And

Whereas, The membership of the New York State International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Utility Workers, which represents over 15,000 IBEW utility workers and serves a vast region of DRC counties' energy needs, stands in support of the electric power generation and transmission upgrade known as the Energy Highway;

And

Whereas, The multi-billion dollar upgrade will help all Upstate electric power producers including solar, wind, and other renewable power projects to deliver their electricity to all of New York State by relieving congestion in transmission "bottlenecks" throughout the state's power grid;

And

Whereas, This upgrade could employ over 17,000 jobs directly, and up to 52,000 jobs directly and indirectly;

And

Whereas, This proposal creates an opportunity to confront New York's need to improve its electrical infrastructure and bring it into the 21st century;

And

Whereas, This proposal will help allow electric power generators to freely compete in the deregulated market;

And

Whereas, This proposal will not expand the policy of importing power from other states or another country when there is an abundance of electric power in New York State;

And

Whereas, The Energy Highway proposal will provide benefits to all New York state residents by greatly reducing fees resulting from congestion; will allow the electric power market to capture solar, wind and other new renewable sources of electricity; and provide bulk power to areas which may then in turn be able to attract business to those communities;

And

Whereas, The Energy Highway proposal will create opportunity, spur economic development, attract new jobs, and help provide energy security for all New Yorkers well into the 21st century;

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved,

that the Executive Board of the Democratic Rural Conference strongly endorses the Energy Highway electric power upgrade proposal. In solidarity with the New York State IBEW Utility Workers, the DRC believes the Energy Highway will provide economic development opportunities to the stressed Upstate economy as well as providing benefit to Southeastern New York; and

And be it further resolved,

that the Secretary of the Democratic Rural Conference is instructed to forward copies of this resolution to Governor Andrew Cuomo, Lt. Governor Robert Duffy, Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos, Senate Minority Leader John Sampson, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Majority Leader Ron Canestrari, Assembly Minority Leader Brian Kolb, Chair of the Senate Committee on Energy and Transportation George Maziarz, and Chair of the Assembly Committee on Energy Kevin Cahill.