

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 12, 2010

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

Re: Loan Guarantee Application of Champlain Hudson Power Express
DOE Solicitation No. DE-FOA 0000132

Dear Secretary Chu:

For many decades – going back to the long saga of the abandoned Shoreham Nuclear Plant and the demise of LILCO - Long Island has struggled with high electric rates. In fact, we have some of the highest electric rates in the nation. It is clear that demand will continue to grow for the foreseeable future and demand may soon outpace supply.

As a Member of Congress from Long Island, I would welcome any environmentally responsible project that could provide additional capacity and bring relief to our residential and commercial ratepayers.

The Champlain Hudson Power Express is a high voltage direct current power transmission project that will bring 1,000 megawatts of renewable energy to the downstate region. Recent economic studies show that the project could provide significant rate relief to the New York City area and Long Island.

This 350-mile long transmission line will be built completely underwater and underground so it will not create visual impacts or controversial condemnation issues that are often associated with overhead transmission lines. The residents in my district want to have access to clean wind and hydro power. This project will provide that access while at the same time create downward pressure on rates and increase competition and stability in the wholesale market.

In addition to the clean energy benefits and rate relief that this project could provide, this project will also create much need jobs in New York State. Not only will the project create short-term construction jobs in the state, but also provide stable long-term employment opportunities as well.

Provided that the application meets all program requirements and can demonstrate the ability to comply with all federal and state regulatory and environmental requirements, I urge you to include the Champlain Hudson Power Express as one of the participants in the DOE loan guarantee program for transmission projects.

I would appreciate it if you could keep my office informed of the status of your review in advance of any formal determination on this application. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michael Grogan in my office at michael.grogan@mail.house.gov or 202.225.5516.

Sincerely,



Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress

cc. Jonathan Silver, Executive Director, Loan Guarantee Program Office