

12/28/2023 Times Union Letter to the Editor, by Paul Fisk

Set an example with Renewable Capitol Act

With the adoption by the state's Climate Action Council of its final scoping plan to implement the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, the governor and Legislature must now move forward with significant efforts to combat the climate crisis. Passage of the state's Environmental Bond Act plus the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act provide partial funding for needed New York state projects. State government must act quickly, as scientists tell us we have little time left to blunt growing climate threats.

Bringing renewable energy to the Capitol complex buildings through a reintroduced Renewable Capitol Act would reduce harmful pollution and correct longstanding environmental harm while solidifying New York state's leadership position in this existential battle.

The Sheridan Hollow Alliance for Renewable Energy has fought to alleviate the historic environmental injustices of previous health-threatening energy facilities in their neighborhood. With their continuing efforts and other supporters like state Sen. Neil Breslin, Assemblymember Patricia Fahy (who is taking up the baton from Assembly Member John McDonald after redistricting), and other climate-concerned elected representatives like Assemblyman Phil Steck and Rep. Paul Tonko, it should be possible to make this vision of an all-renewable-energy Capitol complex a reality.

The governor and Legislature have a unique opportunity to set a shining national example of good stewardship by bringing renewable energy to the entire Capitol complex and health benefits to surrounding neighborhoods. Let's hope they seize it quickly and include financial provisions in the coming budget.

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