



Old Astoria Neighborhood Association (OANA)
www.OANA-NY.org

February 6, 2022

Honorable Michelle L. Phillips
Secretary to the Commission
December 28, 2021
New York State Public Service Commission
Agency Building 3
Albany, NY 12223-1350

Dear Secretary Phillips:

I am writing you to express my support for the Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE) and their contract with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). The contract is currently being reviewed as part of Case Number 15-E-0302 before the PSC.

I am the President of the Old Astoria Neighborhood Association (OANA), whose mission is to both educate and protect the interests and quality of life for all residents of this previously often neglected part of Astoria/Long Island City. And that's why I'm fully supportive of the Champlain Hudson Power Express because it is the only shovel-ready project that can deliver large amounts of affordable, reliable clean power in 2025 to start displacing expensive fossil peaker plants in our frontline communities that for too long have been sources of pollution negatively impacting our health.

The CHPE, through a permitted and fully buried transmission line, will provide round-the-clock hydroelectricity to power the equivalent of one million homes and remove the emissions equivalent of half a million cars from New York's roads.

The Champlain Hudson Power Express will also provide additional local benefits, through a \$117 million environmental trust to fund projects that improve water quality in waterways, and the project will create over 1,400 unionized construction jobs throughout the state and 3,200 secondary jobs. The project also has a \$40 million green jobs training fund focused on supporting underserved communities



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as residents seek to acquire the skills for jobs in the clean energy economy. New York City will also benefit from new tax revenue from the project as well as permanent jobs at a new zero-emissions converter station in Queens.

I was also honored to attend the partnership announcement this January between CHPE and the Variety Boys and Girls Club of Queens. This transformative project will expand the number of young people served by the Club's educational programming from 4,000 to more than 16,000, many of whom come from families who struggle economically.

In a first of its kind private contribution to the new Boys & Girls Club, the \$1.25 million community investment by CHPE will fund a new STEM science lab and programming with a focus on climate and energy innovation. The new science labs are scheduled to open in 2026 and provide science programming for children from grades K through 8th.

I look forward to the benefits that CHPE will bring to residents, business and property owners located in OANA's boundaries from Steinway Street/East River to the North, 21st St to the East, Queensborough Plaza to the South, and the East River to the West. I urge the PSC to approve CHPE.

Sincerely,

Richard Khuzami
President, OANA