

September 11, 2023

The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of New York State  
NYS Capitol Building  
Executive Chamber  
Albany, NY 12224

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
President Pro Tempore and Majority Leader  
New York State Senate  
The Capitol, Room 330  
Albany, NY 12247

The Honorable Carl E. Heastie  
Speaker  
New York State Assembly  
Legislative Office Building 932  
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Governor Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, and Speaker Heastie:

We, the undersigned organizations, support the LIPA Commission's mission<sup>1</sup>, as directed by the Legislature, and its plan to end the Long Island Power Authority's management contract with PSEG and transition over the next two years to what LIPA was intended to be: a fully public utility, under public control, serving the people of Long Island and the Rockaways.

We call on Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature to embrace this endeavor by passing legislation to implement a fully public model for LIPA in the FY 24/25 NYS budget.

In doing so, we will help millions of people, save tens of millions of dollars, improve service, increase reliability, ensure more accountability and transparency, and speed the transition away from fossil fuels, all while maintaining the current unionized workforce.<sup>2</sup>

A LIPA that is fully responsible for the operation and maintenance of its electric grid would end decades of failure, first under National Grid and then under PSEG, an out-of-state, out-of-touch private corporation which is responsive to its stockholders and which has been dangerously unresponsive to the needs of its customers.

The current hybrid arrangement with PSEG LI, where a private corporation is contracted to manage a public utility, exists nowhere else in the nation. Decades of mismanagement has proven that this experiment has failed.

PSEG charges LIPA \$78 million a year for the services of just 19 PSEG employees, yet PSEG management has brought Long Island high monthly bills, poor performance, egregiously long outages and call wait times, and among the lowest customer satisfaction rates of any utility in the northeast.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [nylipa.gov/](http://nylipa.gov/)

<sup>2</sup> [nylipa.gov/storage/20230417\\_draft\\_report.pdf](http://nylipa.gov/storage/20230417_draft_report.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [www.jdpower.com/business/press-releases/2022-electric-utility-residential-customer-satisfaction-study](http://www.jdpower.com/business/press-releases/2022-electric-utility-residential-customer-satisfaction-study)

PSEG has been repeatedly called out, investigated, and/or sued for absenteeism, mismanagement, and negligence, including its failed response to Tropical Storm Isaias in 2020, which left thousands of households stranded without power for days on end. Most shamefully, PSEG has lied about its poor performance in a desperate attempt to cover up its failures.

Long Island and the Rockaways can do better with regional management of LIPA, where local communities make decisions instead of being on the receiving end of bad decisions from unaccountable PSEG managers. The switch would mean huge annual savings on management costs, lower rates, and greater public involvement and accountability. It would be an opportunity for those of us who use and pay for the system to have meaningful input into how it is run.

The plan provides for a smooth transition that includes maintaining the jobs, wages, benefits, and pensions of those who do the work of operating and maintaining the system. Many of them have transitioned between different operating service agreements prior to PSEG while preserving the relationship with their union, IBEW Local 1049.

Full public power is in the best interests of the region's ratepayers, communities, workers, and local businesses. We urge Governor Hochul and the NYS Legislature to support the LIPA Commission's plan to make it a fully public power utility and pass the legislation necessary to implement it as soon as possible.

Signed,

**Groups based in or working in LIPA Service Territory (Long Island & The Rockaways)**

Long Island Progressive Coalition  
Ocean Park Tenants Association  
Action Long Island  
New York Communities for Change  
Long Island Metro Business Action  
District 1 Youth Advisory Board  
Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter  
NY Renews Coalition  
Make the Road New York  
Asian American Institute for Research and Engagement  
The Greater Gordon Heights Chamber of Commerce  
Professional Staff Congress (PSC) Environmental Justice Working Group  
Rockaway Initiative for Sustainability and Equity (RISE)  
New Hour for Women and Children LI  
Muslims For Progress  
Food & Water Watch  
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest  
North Fork Environmental Council  
The ReAL Edgemere Community Land Trust  
Long Beach Latino Civic Association  
S.T.R.O.N.G Youth, Inc.

Gender Equality New York, Inc.  
Rockaway Women for Progress  
Shinnecock Kelp Farmers  
SEPA Mujer, Inc.  
Transition Town Port Washington  
Montaukett Indian Nation  
Environmental Action Coalition  
Middle Island Civic Association  
Slow Food North Shore  
Choice For All  
UAW Region 9A  
All Our Energy  
Pax Christi Long Island  
Long Island Activists  
Social Justice Committee of the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock  
Climate Reality Project, Long Island Chapter  
Progressive East End Reformers (PEER)  
Suffolk Progressives  
ParentChild+Inc.  
East End YIMBY  
Suffolk County Democratic Socialists of America  
South Country Peace Group, Inc.  
Rockaway Revolution  
Building Bridges Brookhaven  
New York Progressive Action Network  
North American Climate, Conservation and Environment  
Public Issues Committee, LI Council of Churches  
Brookhaven Landfill Action and Remediation Group  
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action Long Island  
Together We Will Long Island  
Long Island Network for Change  
Elmont Cultural Center  
Green Party of Nassau County  
Nassau Hiking & Outdoor Club  
Nassau County Democratic Socialists of America  
Donna's H.O.P.E Inc.  
Coram Civic Association  
Green Choices Consulting  
HEAL Long Island  
Green Glen Cove  
Party for Socialism & Liberation Long Island  
Daughters of Wisdom  
iEat Green, LLC  
The Ethical Humanist Society of LI

**Supportive NYS Organizations (Outside LIPA Service Territory)**

Citizen Action of New York  
Mothers Out Front  
New York City Environmental Justice Alliance  
For The Many  
PUSH Buffalo  
Energy Democracy Alliance  
New York Sustainable Business Council  
Sunrise Movement NYC  
Sane Energy Project  
Alliance for a Green Economy  
Bronx Climate Justice North  
Capital Region Interfaith Creation Care Coalition  
West Branch Conservation Association  
Save the Pine Bush  
Riverdale Park Community Group Sustainability  
Western New York Drilling Defense  
NYC Democratic Socialists of America  
Citizens' Climate Lobby, Brooklyn  
Metro Justice  
Energy Allies  
Jon Pope Construction  
350 Brooklyn  
New York Interfaith Power & Light  
Green Education and Legal Fund  
Nuclear Information and Resource Service  
Syracuse Democratic Socialists of America  
People's Climate Movement - NY  
Church Women United in New York State  
350 NYC  
Rise and Resist  
Fossil Free Tompkins  
NYCD16 Indivisible  
Indivisible Mohawk Valley  
Metro New York Catholic Climate Movement  
Big Reuse

Cc:

Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado  
New York State Senate  
New York State Assembly  
Executive Energy, Environment, and Economic Development Staff