



*Carol E. Murphy
Executive Director*

March 7, 2008

**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF
A.2162 /S.3855 (Galef/Marcellino)
In Relation to Expanding the
Products Which May Be Purchased for Public Use**

The Alliance for Clean Energy New York (ACE NY) strongly supports these bills and urges their rapid reconciliation and passage. These bills amend the municipal purchase law to allow municipal governments to pay a premium for “green” energy, just as they are allowed to do for products with recycled content.

ACE NY believes the State must allow municipal entities to contribute to combating global climate change and increasing our energy security through the purchase of renewable power. These bills also will help the State achieve its clean energy goals given one percent of the new generation needed to meet the New York Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) target is supposed to come from voluntary purchases rather than through State contracts supported by rate-payer surcharges.

The Lt. Governor’s Renewable Energy Task Force also identified this issue as a priority and included within its February 2008 report recommendations, that the State remove any statutory or regulatory barriers to municipal government purchases of green power.

These bills do not exempt municipalities from following proper procurement practices but merely allow government entities at the local level to engage in purchasing representative of their constituents’ choices and to show leadership in the most important issues of our time – energy security and environmental protection. Many individual electric customers, residential and commercial, choose to pay a small premium for renewable power. Likewise, Executive Order 111 provides for State agency purchases of renewable power.

Without reform of the municipal purchase law, local governments are unable to add their purchasing power to the marketplace for clean energy. Increased use of clean energy protects the environment, improves public health, increases energy security and creates economic development opportunities. Allowing increased flexibility for municipal power purchases will benefit all New Yorkers.

For the above reasons, the Alliance for Clean Energy New York strongly supports this legislation and urges it quick passage.

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