

1 **2023 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Climate Action**  
3 **Resolution #3**

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5 **Resolution Calling Upon the Public Service Commission (PSC) to Authorize**  
6 **Counties to Authorize and Form Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)**  
7 **Programs**  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, on April 21, 2016, the Public Service Commission (PSC) issued its Order  
10 Authorizing Framework for Community Choice Aggregation Opt-Out Program, which  
11 authorized the establishment of Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) programs by  
12 cities, towns, and villages statewide and articulated the necessary design principles and  
13 standards that municipalities must apply in developing and implementing CCA  
14 programs for their constituents; and

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16 **WHEREAS**, CCA programs allow local governments to make bulk power purchases on  
17 behalf of participating homes and businesses in their jurisdiction, making it easier for  
18 residents and employers to benefit from local clean energy projects; and

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20 **WHEREAS**, most communities in New York State that have implemented a CCA  
21 program procure 100 percent renewable energy as their default supply, which has  
22 helped to scale up renewable energy systems and reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

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24 **WHEREAS**, when CCAs integrate opt-out community solar, participating homes and  
25 small businesses are enrolled in one or more community solar projects from which they  
26 receive credits on their electric bill, which typically guarantee savings of 5 percent to 10  
27 percent; and

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29 **WHEREAS**, opt-out community solar allows CCAs to enroll hundreds, or even  
30 thousands, of people at once, significantly reducing soft costs associated with solar and  
31 making the economics of renewable energy more attractive; and

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33 **WHEREAS**, for the abovementioned reasons, CCAs are tools for transformative  
34 change in the way consumers connect to and purchase their energy; and

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36 **WHEREAS**, the transformative potential of CCAs is limited by the Public Service  
37 Commission, which, in its 2016 Order, made counties ineligible to create their own  
38 CCAs programs; and

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40 **WHEREAS**, as a result, county governments have been limited to encouraging  
41 municipalities to form an inter-municipal CCA and providing administrative support;  
42 and

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44 **WHEREAS**, the Climate Action Council's Final Scoping Plan includes a  
45 recommendation for PSC to enable county governments to authorize and form CCA

1 programs in recognition of the important role this could play in speeding up the State’s  
2 transition to clean energy.

3 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
4 Counties (NYSAC) calls upon the Public Service Commission to authorize counties to  
5 authorize and form community choice aggregation programs with a local opt-out in  
6 addition to the cities, towns, and villages that are currently eligible to participate; and

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8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that enabling counties to create CCAs will allow for  
9 more purchasing power, more affordable rates, and greater renewable energy adoption;  
10 and

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12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC further supports the Final Scoping Plan’s  
13 recommendation to remove barriers to entry, particularly for lower-income households,  
14 and include safeguards for energy-burdened households that may have been the target  
15 of previous predatory practices related to their energy bills and services; and

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17 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties  
18 of New York encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

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20 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
21 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, PSC Chair and Executive Chief  
22 Officer Rory M. Christian, and all others deemed necessary and proper.