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**LONG ISLAND BUSINESS COALITION CALLS ON NYS TO AMEND
LEGISLATION TO INCLUDE AN INDEPENDENT COMPREHENSIVE
STUDY OF REGION’S ENERGY FUTURE**

Current legislation seeks recommendations to fully municipalize Long Island’s energy grid; A comprehensive study would examine all options including public-private partnerships and privatization

Coalition: Long Island has been saddled with high energy costs as a result of past decisions, ratepayers cannot afford to another titanic shift without an independent and complete review

(Hauppauge, NY) - In an unprecedented action that underscores the strategic importance of charting the region’s energy future, the Association for a Better Long Island, Hauppauge Industrial Association of Long Island, Ignite Long Island, Long Island Association, Long Island Business Council, Long Island Builders Institute, the Long Island Contractors Association and the Nassau Council of Chambers of Commerce, are jointly calling on state lawmakers to amend current legislation to include a thorough, public, comprehensive, and independent analysis of not just a plan toward full municipalization, but also the current public-private partnership and privatization of Long Island’s energy grid. NYS Senate legislation S7576 and NYS Assembly legislation A9035, as currently written, establishes a commission to only study and recommend how best to fully municipalize Long Island’s energy grid.

In a joint letter to Albany lawmakers currently considering a bill that would explore the future options for Long Island’s electrical grid, the group stated, “A deliberate and studied policy must ensure that Long Island ratepayers don't fall victim to incomplete analysis, costing billions and negatively impacting the region's long-term economic viability. Long Island has had a long and painful relationship with high energy costs. As a region we have an obligation to be wary of

proposals that have the potential to exponentially add to that burden.”

The more than a half dozen business organizations further stated, “With the New York State Legislature now considering potential legislation that would dramatically change how Long Island receives its power, the Long Island business and economic development communities cannot afford to be a casual spectator to this proposal. Not only is this coalition concerned about the potential cost of any transition but believes there must be a thorough, comprehensive, and independent analysis of not only a plan toward full municipalization but also the current public-private partnership and or privatization. The region cannot afford any other option.”

The coalition is particularly concerned about immediate and hidden cost of all options. In their message to state lawmakers they note, “There is a particular concern regarding the long-term costs of adding additional employees to the state’s pension and healthcare systems. These costs are no more apparent than in our unsustainable and ever-increasing taxes from Long Island school districts, whose budgets are overwhelmingly used to pay employee salaries, pensions, and healthcare costs.”

The membership of the seven business organizations represent some of the largest users of energy in the bi-county region and whose ability to power the Long Island economy through job creation and investment is dependent on reliable, cost effective energy.