



ABLI & LIBI URGE NYS TO REDUCE ENERGY COSTS FOR 1.1M LIPA CUSTOMERS BY OPPOSING BILL THAT MAINTAINS 5% POWER PLANT TAX

On The Brink of Finally Reaching Fair Phase-Down Settlements for Over-Assessed Power Plants, Bill Would Squander Decades of Progress

Recently Passed NYS Senate Legislation Will Make Living and Working on Long Island More Difficult and More Expensive

Hauppauge, NY (May 31, 2019) – The Association for a Better Long Island (ABLI) and Long Island Builders Institute (LIBI), leading regional advocacy groups, are urging New York State elected officials to oppose legislation that would compel Long Island’s 1.1 million LIPA ratepayers to pay higher rates for obsolete power plants, further damaging the region’s economy.

In a message to Albany leadership, the business leaders warn that the proposed legislation currently making its way through the New York State Assembly ([A07786](#)), will saddle all Long Island Power Authority customers with higher rates for an inefficient power plant that produces nearly 80 percent less energy than it did 20 years ago. Additionally, the legislation potentially sets a precedent and a model for a way that other entities and municipalities to over assess properties, creating further financial burdens for Long Islanders.

“This ill conceived and unconstitutional bill squanders decades of progress toward providing energy cost relief to the 1.1 million LIPA customers,” said Kyle Strober, Executive Director, Association for a Better Long Island. “The bill will surely lead to costly and prolonged litigation. It will also delay the execution of fair phase-down settlements, which is the only solution that makes sense, as it would reduce energy costs for all of LIPA’s customers and would ensure the impact on affected communities is minimized.”

“The Long Island Builders Institute firmly supports the efforts of the Long Island Power Authority to ensure that all of its ratepayers pay only the amount of real property taxes which are lawful and not excessive or exorbitant,” said Mitchell H Pally, Chief Executive Officer. “It is unconscionable for the New York State Legislature to pass legislation which would continue the excessive payments of the past to a few municipalities and school districts and to ensure that the ratepayers of Long Island could not contest such payments in court, just like everyone else has the legal right to do.”

The letter was sent to Governor Andrew Cuomo, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, and Assemblyman Steve Stern, who introduced the bill. The Assembly Bill was delivered by the Senate on May 21, 2019 and was recently referred to the Assembly Corporations, Authorities and Commissions Committee.

###

Media Contacts:

Gary Lewi 212 843-8010 glewi@rubenstein.com

Jeffrey Weir 212 843-8022 jweir@rubenstein.com