Dear Representative Torres,

I am writing to outline fundamental principles that will guide siting determinations made by Clean Path New York as they pertain to communities in Bronx, NY. We understand that the Bronx has historically borne a disproportionate burden in hosting heavy infrastructure that serves to benefit the rest of the City and State. We are sensitive to the negative social, economic, and public health outcomes experienced by Bronx communities as a direct consequence of those decisions.

The animating impetus for Clean Path New York is to serve as a mitigant to long-standing environmental justice burdens borne by disadvantaged communities in the Bronx and throughout the City. We seek to develop 3,800 MW of new wind and solar energy resources throughout the State (all located outside of New York City) in tandem with a 1,300 MW underground transmission facility that would deliver the clean energy from those resources into the City in order to reduce noxious emissions from existing fossil fuel-fired electric generation sources. Specifically our modeling indicates that the project would displace 16% of the City’s fossil fuel fired-generation each year, and reduce NOx, SOx, and PM emissions each by 20% or more every year. The project will also reduce 39 million tons of CO2 emissions over the project’s initial 25-year life – the equivalent of removing 339,000 cars from the road. Of this total, 57% of the emissions reductions would occur within New York City and 40% occur in disadvantaged communities across the State.

We will not create new, additional environmental justice burdens on Bronx communities as we work to remediate the historic injustices referenced above. To this end, we commit to:

1. We will not locate the project’s HVDC VSC converter station at the Bronx Terminal Market Site nor in other residential areas;
2. We will site the converter station in an industrial area;
3. Ensure full compliance at all times with the limits for EMF from transmission lines established by the New York Public Service Commission.

The project’s proposed design also limits the presence of the conductors underground in the Bronx. There would be limited HVDC conductor burial in streets to reach the converter station, if located in the Bronx, as well as limited HVAC conductor burial to connect that converter station to the Mott Haven or Rainey substations (as is standard practice throughout the City).

We look forward to working together to enhance the health of communities in the Bronx and across the City and State.

Sincerely,

Jeff T. Blau
Founding Partner, energyRe and Forward Power

Gil Quiniones
President & CEO, New York Power Authority

Michael Polsky
CEO, Invenergy and Founding Partner of Forward Power