

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3203

August 17, 2023

Gina Raimondo  
Secretary  
United States Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Raimondo:

I write to convey my support for New Energy New York's (NENY) proposal, submitted by Binghamton University, to the U.S Economic Development Administration's (EDA) Regional Technology and Innovation Hub (Tech Hub) Designation and Strategy Phase 1 Grant program. This initiative, a recipient of one of EDA's largest Build Back Better Regional Challenge awards, is devised to be a leader in efforts to innovate, transfer and create, a clean energy generation and storage ecosystem in New York's Southern Tier. Led by Noble Laureate-Professor Stanley Whittingham, the inventor of the lithium-ion battery, this proposal seeks to build on the strong trajectory NENY is on in the battery space.

NENY has established a consortium of regionally significant public and private entities, ranging from institutions of higher education, K-12 systems, tech and vocational training, workforce development boards, regional, local, and state governments, nonprofit organizations, economic development entities, and private sector equities. Through this extensive and diverse coalition, the proposal intends to drive innovative new technology in battery and energy storage, transfer technology to scalable manufacturing operations, co-locate supply chain components including, raw material sourcing, mineral refinement, and end-life stage components such as recycling, all with an emphasis on safety, equity and environmental justice.

This ambitious and impressive undertaking is already well supported, through awards from both the federal government (BBBRC), and New York State's lead economic development agency: Empire State Development. In addition, NENY has received follow-along support provided at the local, regional, and state levels. Through its efforts, NENY seeks to provide a solution to our future energy needs, domestic and secure sourcing, and revitalization of the regional economy, which has a legacy of innovation stemming from the birthplace of IBM, flight simulation, and many more notable contributions

The region is home to a battery manufacturer positioned to be the largest "homegrown" giga factory in the world, with ambitious plans underway to reach 38 GWH capacity in the next decade. Great efforts are underway to collocate providers of various elements in the battery supply chain. New Energy New York, is building out laboratory space to accelerate its advancements in next-generation batteries, and as a result, other manufacturers have expressed interest in the region to site their operations. BAE Systems, and Raymond Corporation located in close proximity are purveyors of batteries to power energy platform systems used in buses and pallet trucks respectively.

A designation as a Regional Technology and Innovation Hub in the advanced energy and industrial efficiency technologies focus area, will seek to solidify the region's position as an

ecosystem to drive advancements and production of batteries, build on its success, and provide support to a critical industry.

For these reasons, I support New Energy New York's efforts to secure a designation as a Regional Technology and Innovation Hub, and the funding and resources associated with this program. Through this award, we can drive advancements in energy storage solutions, make impactful strides to alleviate our nation's dependence on nonrenewable energy sources, and prompt meaningful job creation to promote the prosperity of a region for years to come. Your consideration and support of this proposal is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles E. Schumer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator