

SIERRA CLUB URGES GOV. CUOMO TO ACT ON COAL RETIREMENTS AFTER GORE VISIT

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Contact:

Lisa Dix, Sierra Club 631-235-4988 lisa.dix@sierraclub.org

Sierra Club Applauds Gov. Cuomo's Commitment to Phase Out Coal

Calls for Enforceable Statewide Action on Coal

Albany, NY – At a conference with former Vice President Al Gore yesterday, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced new actions to combat climate change while reaffirming his commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across New York State. The Governor reinforced New York's pledge to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions 40% by 2030 and 80% by 2050; directed state agencies to develop a broad North American carbon market; and committed to more innovative solar investments.

In his statement Governor Cuomo also signaled his commitment to phase out coal-fired power generation in New York State stating that "We established the state's first carbon dioxide emissions standard when siting new power plants which will ensure that no new dirty, coal-burning plants will be built in the State of New York, period. We are also repowering and converting or closing the existing coal plants."

In response, Lisa Dix, Senior New York Beyond Coal Representative, issued the following statement:

"The Sierra Club applauds Governor Cuomo's continued commitment to combatting climate disruption. As the Governor noted 'it's the New York way to lead.' We urge the Governor to look at this as a moment of opportunity where he can not only commit to cutting carbon pollution, but commit to putting an end the largest source of that pollution -- New York's four remaining coal plants. Now is the time for an enforceable commitment to end coal burning in the Empire state by the end of the decade.

"Bold executive action is necessary to combat climate disruption and ensure that communities facing transition away from coal get the support they need to prosper in a 21st century clean energy economy. We look forward to working with the Governor and his Administration to transition New York beyond coal so the state can meet its bold commitment by 2030, to achieve 40% reduction in Green House

Gas Emissions while ensuring 50% of New York's electric energy needs are met by renewable energy sources.”