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Decarbonization of electricity generation is one of the most pressing issues of our time, and energy storage is a key enabling technology for scaling up renewables to meet state decarbonization goals. Yet the most effective approaches to energy storage policymaking are far from clear.

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Direct policy support is offered on an as-needed basis to members engaged in program, policy and regulatory development (the extent of direct policy support depends on CESA bandwidth). This support may include review and input on policies, regulations or programs under development; comments on RFPs, straw proposals and other documents in development; filings in open proceedings; and presentations to energy storage committees, legislative bodies or regulators.

Independent third-party analysis is conducted on energy storage policy, economics, markets and other topics of interest to state regulators and policymakers, as needed and depending on CESA bandwidth. Topics have included storage in energy efficiency plans; opportunities in peak demand management/winter peaking and peaker replacement; solar+storage for affordable housing and underserved communities; and policy recommendations for states.

Similar to California, in June of 2024, the New York State Public Service Commission (NY PSC) increased that state"s energy storage procurement targets from 3GW to 6GW by 2030. The roadmap to achieve this goal, filed by NY DPS and NYSERDA, asserts that long-duration storage (10+ hours duration) is expected to "become an important component of the long-term energy system" and recommends that NYSERDA programs "focus on supporting research, development, and demonstration of technologies that can provide reliable, zero-carbon supply.”

The New York storage roadmap notes that more than 4 GW of 8-hour storage will be needed by 2035, and 6.8 GW by 2050, and directs NYSERDA to aim for each bulk storage procurement to include a target of 20%

8+hour storage resources, resulting in 1200 MW of longer duration storage by 2030. Although 8-hour resources are generally not quite regarded as "long duration," these medium duration resources still provide valuable grid services.

By adopting long duration storage targets, these leading states send a powerful message to the storage industry. Yet, long duration requirements can present significant challenges for storage developers.