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## **MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT**

### **P-TECH and STEM Funding Proposals in the Executive Budget**

Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. and Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc. (the “Companies”) are subsidiaries of Consolidated Edison, Inc., one of the nation's largest investor-owned energy companies, providing electric, gas and steam service to 3.3 million customers in New York City, Westchester County, Orange County, and Rockland County. In aggregate, the Companies employ almost 15,000 employees and pay more than \$2.3 billion annually in state and local taxes.

As part of the 2014-15 Executive Budget, Governor Cuomo has proposed \$5 million in funding to support the creation of 10 P-TECH schools in New York. He also proposes the establishment of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Incentive Program, which would provide a full tuition scholarship to any SUNY or CUNY school for the top 10 percent of high school graduates who are pursuing careers in STEM fields and commit to work in New York State for five years.

These programs will better align education initiatives with employment needs by preparing students for jobs that are in demand.

Under the P-TECH model, these schools offer an integrated high school and college curriculum – four years of high school, and two of college – focusing on science, technology, engineering and math. Students are also provided with essential workplace skills, including leadership, communications and problem solving. Graduates receive both a high school diploma and an associate’s degree in Applied Science in Computer Information Systems or Electromechanical Engineering Technology, and at no cost to the student.

Con Edison has partnered with the New York City Department of Education, the City University of New York and LaGuardia Community College to support the new Energy Tech High School in Queens. At Energy Tech, students interested in STEM fields can take a unique pathway to high-demand careers in the fast-growing energy industry. Students receive extensive academic support and mentoring, as well as learning through hands-on problem solving in and out of the classroom. While Energy Tech is only in its first year of operation, we are very confident that it will prepare students for success in the energy field.

Similarly, the STEM Incentive Program is an investment in students that will help prepare them for good jobs after graduation. Many employers are having difficulty finding qualified workers to fill vacancies. This program will help those employers meet their need for well-trained employees.

For these reasons, the Companies urge that the 2014-15 enacted state budget include funding for P-TECH and STEM programs.