**Statement from Empire State Development, March 3, 2020**

“Tesla is making significant contributions to Western New York’s economy, and its growth at RiverBend mirrors the ongoing economic renaissance in Buffalo and throughout the region. Tesla is paying for the relocation and storage of underutilized equipment as it ramps up its operations and introduces new production lines. We are seeking alternative uses for the equipment, including making it available to other high-tech businesses that are considering a move or expansion in New York, or selling to interested bidders."

**On Background**

* Due to the need for Tesla to rapidly scale the production of its solar roof, approximately $50 million in solar manufacturing tools, which were first ordered years ago, were relocated to make room for additional new production lines that are expected to support hundreds of additional jobs and include millions of dollars in additional new equipment purchased by Tesla at its expense.
* Future plan(s) for use or sale of the machinery are under consideration. If appropriate, tools could be used as part of an incentive to attract other solar cell manufacturer or academic research or ultimately could be resold.
* None of the equipment is technologically obsolete. For clarity, a limited set of the originally purchased equipment ultimately was not required for Tesla’s production process due to changes in their solar product.
* Over the course of SolarCity’s acquisition of Silevo  and Tesla’s acquisition of SolarCity and several years of product development, Tesla modified its technology to produce its innovative new solar roof tile, which carries different production requirements.
* Tesla has begun moving millions of dollars’ worth of new equipment into the facility for use on the new production lines.
* The move and storage costs for these crates are being absorbed by Tesla.