

Syracuse 04/27/22

Hello! I am Judy Fitzgerald and I am a member of the Interfaith Climate Justice Community and the Sierra Club.

I will begin with a quote from UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, **“Do We Have A Choice? Fossil Fuels are a dead-end – for our planet, for humanity, and Yes for economies.** Could he say it any more directly? Can we hear him? We are now at a point of no return. We either act now or condemn ourselves to a world we won't recognize!

I am proud to come and support NYS's Climate Scoping Plan. I applaud their forward thinking and the hard work involved in producing steps that can help to mitigate the worst effects of climate change. NYS sets itself up as a model for the country to follow. The catch to me is this: Will we follow the timelines set up and if we don't; it is clear we will not reach our goals, law or no law! Without sticking to those timelines, we will not make it and that would be a tragedy.

Electricity; by 2050 our electricity needs will double. NY must never build another fossil fuel plant and it must rid itself of aging fossil fuel plants replacing them with renewable energy, battery storage, geothermal and efficiency.

Transportation. NY's climate law requires a 100% emissions-neutral state by 2050 with 100% emissions-free electricity by 2040. It sets bold equity targets: 35-40% of state resources used in transition must benefit disadvantaged communities. This is key from a social justice perspective which cannot be ignored and must be included.

We have a plan; we must follow achievable targeted goals realized only by sticking to the planned time schedule.

The Interfaith Climate Justice Community works together to save this beautiful earth gifted to us by God. If we do not act NOW, we will lose it and not only for ourselves. I am a grandmother of 3 beautiful happy healthy boys and I will not stand by and watch this abundant state destroyed, nor my country, nor this amazing gift of the Earth. I implore you: ACT BOLDLY ACT NOW!