

May 4, 2022

**Draft Scoping Plan Comments
NYSERDA
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399**

Re: Chapter 15, Agriculture and Forestry

Members of the Climate Action Council:

First I want to thank you for all your hard work this past year and a half.

I am a retired Highland beef farmer. My husband and I have followed organic practices with our pastures the entire time we had animals, over 13 yrs. We are members of the Northeast Organic Farming Assoc. I want to comment on Chapter 15, AF9, Advance Alternative Manure Management.

The best way to mitigate the small portion of total GHG that ruminant livestock emit, while sequestering carbon massively with little effort, is for New York State to encourage the changeover from confinement management to pastured management. I support the components of AF9 that call for funding to assist farmers with technical help and training for advisors who will teach farmers how to restore degraded pastures and then manage intensive grazing. At the same time, I believe that spending money to help fund the building of more manure pits, or for flaring methane, is not a responsible use of taxpayer money. We must move away from CAFOs to pastured systems which also reduce labor costs, veterinary bills and methane emissions all at the same time.

The cow should travel to the food, not the other way around. It makes for possibly less, but healthier and richer milk.

Sincerely,



**Mrs. Deborah Bigelow
Amity Highland Ranch**

