

May 13, 2022

NYSERDA  
17 Columbia Circle  
Albany, NY 12203-6399

Attention: Draft Scoping Plan Comments

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to comment on the Climate Action Council Draft Scoping Plan (Plan).

I understand and welcome the intent of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) that was passed in 2019. As a parent, I certainly want what's best for the environment for future generations.

My main concern is that New York (NY) is trying to get to "net zero" greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 10 years before the United States has collectively committed to doing so. Although I do commend this aggressive goal, if the other States aren't pursuing these goals over the same timeframe, I fear NY's doing so will come at a great cost to everyday New Yorkers like myself.

The Plan doesn't evaluate whether or not any of the recommendations are doable at a scale large enough to ensure the energy needs of all NYers and doesn't include any analysis of what the cost and other economic implications will be of implementing the Plan. These are **GLARING** omissions that any reasonable governing entity should do their due diligence on before implementing such a sweeping and far reaching **MAJOR POLICY CHANGE**.

The Climate Action Council (Council) has been tasked with reducing greenhouse gas emissions but they're working in a vacuum without consider the impacts of their plan on energy reliability, economic development, etc.. Implementing these policies before reliable technology is actually available to provide NYS's long term energy needs **IS RECKLESS AND IRRESPONSIBLE**.

This major policy change will undoubtedly affect businesses willingness to invest in the future of NY once the ramifications of the intentions of the Scoping Plan become well known throughout the public domain. Unfortunately, NY is already at a competitive disadvantage due to its unfriendly tax burden and regulatory environment. Insufficient and unreliable energy resources, as well as uncertainty regarding future regulations around climate change, will undoubtedly affect businesses' willingness to remain in NY, let alone invest in the future of NY. We've already seen the affects of businesses pulling up shop & heading to more business-friendly States. If the pace of businesses exiting NY picks up and investment in NY is slowed or, even worse, halted all together, it will have a **VERY SIGNIFICANT NEGATIVE EFFECT**

on the lives of everyone living in NY. Residents will begin to flee NYS at a pace faster than they historically have, which will negatively affect everyone's property value. The combination of more business leaving NY, businesses not investing in the future of NY, and residents leaving NY will further thin out the already lean tax base. This will only place more burden on those who are left, potentially "breaking the back" of many. NY has far too many long-term debt obligations to be able to afford to have business & residents exiting as a result of this ill-planned major policy shift.

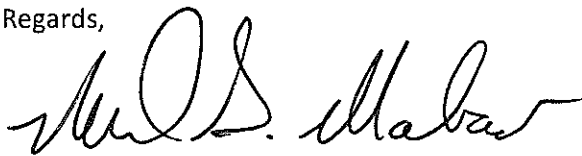
On a personal level, I'm particularly concerned about adequate energy supplies during the winter months as my research on the use of heat pumps and other non-fossil fueled household heating technologies indicates that they are cost prohibitive without significant subsidies and won't be able to provide sufficient heating for homes during our cold winters in Upstate New York.

As a lifelong resident of NY, I am very worried about having to move out of NY because 1) my household energy sources will become intermittent & too costly, 2) the property tax burden will become too great as a result of the mass exodus from NY & 3) the value of my home will free-fall because no-one will be able to afford to live in NY.

I would ask the Council to consider the potential very negative consequences of implementing the Scoping Plan and instead to ensure that the infrastructure is in place to satisfy NY's current energy needs cost effectively as well as any potential investment in NY before just outright banning the use of fossil fuels as an energy source.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in this important topic,

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Mahar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "D" that are connected to the rest of the name.

Michael D. Mahar  
Wilson, NY