

June 2, 2022

NYSERDA  
17 Columbia Circle  
Albany NY 12203-6399

ATTENTION: Draft Scoping Plan Comments

Gentlemen:

I am writing in regards to The New York 2019 Climate Act. The recently presented Draft of the Scoping Plan released by the NY Climate Action Council sets the parameters for achieving the emission targets for the decarbonization of New York State. It recommends a complete overhaul of our energy industry and includes bans on natural gas, propane, fuel oil and wood for homes and appliances involved with home and water heating, cooking, and laundry. This "ban" is to begin as soon as 2024. The plan proposes converting nearly everything to electric power and relies heavily on wind and solar energy to replace all other sources of energy. I feel this replacement would result in electric demand that would far exceed current and future supplies of electric and likely lead to higher prices and questionable reliability.

This drastic change will negatively affect our daily lives as New Yorkers. The 2024 appliance ban would begin for new construction and lead to widespread changes in the way we live, work and conduct business. To begin with, we have a large Amish population in our area who do not use electric power in their homes or businesses. What are they to do? Move? That would mean a dramatic loss in school tax and property tax revenues which would raise the tax burden of the remaining non-Amish community.

Our rural towns and areas are dependent upon propane, wood, natural gas and fuel oil to provide heat and cooking capability. We are at the mercy of Mother Nature when it comes to power outages and interruptions. Yes, generators can supply temporary electricity—but they are run with propane or natural gas. Frozen pipes have been spared by many a wood stove or fireplace warming the house during severe outages.

We are struggling communities at present—desperately trying to keep our businesses, industries, schools and homes afloat. This is an expensive state in which to exist. This plan will increase the expenses even further and be less reliable. It will be extremely costly to protect power lines from the fury of winter storms. And who is going to pay the expenses of upgrading the grid and individual homes and businesses?

This plan makes no provision for current inequalities in the Upstate and Downstate regions. Upstate NY produces far less greenhouse gas emissions, is far poorer in incomes and has harsher weather conditions than Downstate. Yet the plan makes no mention or provision to equalize these inequalities.

There is a great lack of infrastructure available now and I doubt it could be achieved by 2024 to provide the electric power necessary to meet the demands of this proposed plan. It would be ludicrous to ignore the in-place availability of other renewable sources which could meet and exceed the carbon emission reduction thresholds of this plan.

The answer to this problem, as in many things in life, is a balanced approach using a mix of energy sources, not just electricity. Relying on only one source would be a risky route in terms of cost, reliability, storm resiliency and ability to maintain job and investment levels within New York State.

Please consider my thoughts and concerns. I, too, am concerned greatly with global warming and carbon emissions, but I do not feel this is the right plan to proceed with. A combination of using all sources of fuel wisely and efficiently is a better route to follow. Reliance on electric alone, to me, provides an avenue to great expense, hardship for many, loss of industry and livelihood, and perhaps even, in extreme weather conditions, loss of life.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Melanie Gallinger*

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