

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Phil Erner

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Representing the People of the
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Re: Draft Scoping Plan

Dear New York State Energy Research & Development Authority:

As an Ulster County Legislator, I have signed a letter & voted in favor of a Memorializing Resolution both expressing my support generally for the draft scoping plan for the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA): we must make an immediate and just transition off fossil fuels. But to me justice demands that the plan confer 100 percent of the benefits to disadvantaged, less-resourced communities.

Furthermore as a former academic physicist at the State University of New York, I reject the use of so-called "green hydrogen" as a de-carbonization strategy. Nothing so rare on earth as elemental hydrogen can be considered a sustainable fuel; to put in more energy in order to generate the fuel than it yields renders it no fuel at all.

I also believe that the plan over-relies on electricity, which is materially complicated & expensive to generate and store. Over the past two hundred plus years we have learned that electricity is ideal for long-range communications, producing artificial light, and some mechanical applications. But for most other applications, electricity wastes much in the conversions, and so different sources of energy make better sense. For example, we should use sun and wind mostly not to generate electricity, but instead directly for their heat and kinetic energy.

To mitigate our predicament we must equitably power down our society by dismantling the global monopoly capital system. Only can we thereby end the excessive waste - - both material and heat - - generated by our exploitative economy, which extracts private profit via the unnecessary suffering of the bulk of toiling humanity and other life on earth and has produced the climate catastrophe that this plan only begins to address.

Sincerely,

Phil Erner