



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

Will Barclay
Minority Leader

June 28, 2022

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

Dear Climate Action Council:

New York's energy grid is a critical part of every sector of our economy and our communities. Ensuring it is reliable, affordable, and sustainable is an important job of legislators and those charged with the grid's administration and maintenance. Unfortunately, I have serious concerns regarding the direction of the state's energy policy and the Draft Scoping Plan set forth by the Climate Action Council (CAC).

New York laid the groundwork for a sweeping overhaul of the energy sector when it passed the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) in 2019. Among the highly questionable targets included in the Act are eliminating all new gas service in all buildings beginning in 2024, eliminating gas-powered car sales by 2035, and eliminating natural gas appliances in 2030.

As I have said in the past, we all want clean air, water, and protected natural resources. Improving the environment is a laudable goal and one I will continue to pursue as leader of the Assembly Minority Conference. However, what is being proposed in the Draft Scoping Plan is unattainable and onerous to New York residents.

At the top of the list of concerns I have with the proposal is the continued lack of information regarding its cost. For example, restricting the construction and automotive sectors under the timeline proposed in the law is going to be enormously expensive. For this reason, I have co-sponsored legislation ([A.7524A, Palmesano](#)) to conduct a full cost-benefit analysis of the feasibility of implementing renewable energy systems in New York. At the very least, we must delineate the real-world implications of such a transition before making these wholesale changes to our energy grid.

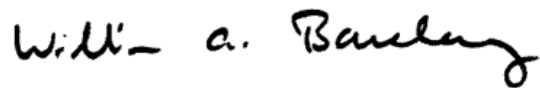
Now, even more so than when the CLCPA was passed, we must be aware of the cost implications any new law will have on already burdened taxpayers and residents. Inflation is at a historic high, and the cost of living in New York is already unbearable for families in every corner of the state. Our estimates indicate a full transition could cost homeowners more than \$35,000

each. That is completely out of the question in any economic environment, let alone the one New Yorkers are being forced to endure now.

Further, we have seen other states attempt similar transitions only to find themselves lacking sufficient energy during weather-related emergencies. In instances of extreme heat, cold, or snow, it is not merely inefficient to lean too heavily on renewable energy, it can be deadly. The first job of government is to keep the people it represents safe. This law threatens that basic charge.

Going forward, I will continue to evaluate ways to strengthen New York's energy grid, reduce costs for consumers, and ensure our air and water are clean and safe. There is great value in exploring renewable energy and implementing it into our energy policy, however the goals set forth in the Draft Scoping Plan and CLCPA are unrealistic at this time. We simply do not have enough information about the cost and reliability of these policies to move forward. For that reason, I cannot endorse this plan or its implementation as written.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Will a. Barclay". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly informal style.

Will Barclay
Assembly Minority Leader