

June 30, 2022

Comments of the NYC Hospitality Alliance on the Climate Action Council Draft Scoping Plan

The NYC Hospitality Alliance is a not-for-profit association representing restaurants, bars, and nightclubs throughout the five boroughs. We submit this testimony regarding the Climate Action Council Draft Scoping Plan that could phase out the use of natural gas and gas cooking appliances such as stoves in our industry's kitchens and mandate they transition to electric.

While reducing our industry's impact on the environment is a matter of critical importance to us, transitioning the more than 24,000 eating and drinking establishments in the City of New York off gas and onto the electrical grid poses significant operational, financial, and feasibility challenges and concerns for small businesses like so many of those we represent, and that's why the City of New York exempted commercial kitchens from their law requiring the transition to electrification.

We strongly support policies where the state offers incentives to restaurants and similar businesses to transition to electricity but mandating this transition would pose significant and unrealistic coordination and expenses on businesses to replace all their gas equipment, creating supply chain issues and unbearable cost, not to mention most restaurants prefer or need to use gas stoves to cook their myriad cuisines from around the world.

We urge that like the City of New York, the State of New York also exempts eating and drinking establishments from this proposal, while also ensuring that rates to procure gas do not rise to unreasonable prices when so much of the gas current usage transitions on to the electric grid and reshapes the market dynamics.

New York City restaurants are vital the economic foundation of our city and state, especially as we fight to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic, we urge you not to place massive financial and operational burdens on these small businesses.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Respectfully submitted,

NYC Hospitality Alliance

For questions or comments, you may contact Andrew Rigie at [REDACTED]