**Public Hearing Statement – Binghamton**

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My name is Anntonette Alberti, Manager, Customer Energy Management Growth Team for National Grid, on behalf of the Company.

Solving climate change requires sweeping emissions reductions across all sectors. Achieving meaningful decarbonization will require every tool in the toolbox, including a coordinated gas and electric strategy.

Any pathway starts with Energy Efficiency and Weatherization. Wider adoption of measures to better weatherize buildings and replace old appliances with more efficient ones will significantly lower the amount of fuel required to keep buildings warm and comfortable. This not only lowers direct costs for customers but also reduces peak demand and new infrastructure that would otherwise need to be built.

There is a critical role for electrification of heat. When paired with 100% renewable electricity, heat pumps play an important role in achieving net zero, especially where cost-effective. For example, today it is already cost-effective for customers who heat with oil, propane, or old electric resistance systems to convert to heat pumps.

That said, in our service area today, heating with gas is the most cost-effective option for virtually all our customers. **Especially for low to moderate income customers, affordable heating is crucial.**

Leveraging existing networks we have built over decades with low carbon fuels for affordable heating simply makes sense for New Yorkers. In the same way we are decarbonizing the electric network, we will decarbonize the gas system with cleaner fuels, like renewable natural gas (RNG) and hydrogen. Wind and solar generation are cost competitive with traditional generation sources and are commercially scaling. We expect the same type of advances from RNG and hydrogen in the next few years. **To reduce and ultimately eliminate fossil fuels from our energy networks, we must implement policies encouraging development of renewable natural gas and green hydrogen for customers by establishing fuel procurement standards for gas utilities.**

We urge the Climate Action Council to consider a pathway that uses our existing energy networks and deeply incentivizes energy efficiency and weatherization. **We recommend the adoption of fuel standards to support fossil free gas in New York.**