**Public Hearing Statement – Peekskill**

**Brian Sano**

**National Grid**

Good afternoon, I’m Brian Sano here for National Grid. National Grid operates electric and gas networks throughout New York State that serve more than 4.2 million customers.

Solving climate change requires sweeping emissions reductions across all sectors while at the same time maintaining safe, reliable, and affordable energy for all – and protecting the State’s economy and economic development potential. Electrification will play a crucial role in meeting our climate goals to be sure, and National Grid will electric a lot, **but the enormous challenge in front of us demands a range of practical, pragmatic and cost-effective solutions – now more than ever.**

National Grid launched our [vision](https://www.nationalgrid.com/us/fossilfree) to fully eliminate fossil fuels from our US gas and electric systems – in sum, ***THERE IS A BETTER WAY*** to achieve the requirements of the CLCPA on time, in an affordable and reliable way that preserves choice for our customers – and does not place the State’s future in the hands of a single solution – one that has yet to be built. There is broad support for our plan among labor, civic organizations, trade groups, customers, academics, scientists and elected leaders – and the pathway we choose does not have to be a Solomon’s choice. We can have both – affordability and lower GHG emission to meet CLCPA targets.

**Achieving meaningful decarbonization will require every tool in the toolbox. A coordinated gas and electric strategy, that leveraging existing networks – the assets we have already built over decades – simply makes sense for New Yorkers.**

In the same way we are decarbonizing the electric network through adoption of renewables, **we will decarbonize the gas system with cleaner fuels, like renewable natural gas and hydrogen.**  Not long ago, renewable electricity was expensive, the technology was inefficient, and utilization was extremely low. Today, wind and solar are cost competitive and delivering an increasingly large share of our energy needs. **We have the same opportunity to advance renewable natural gas and hydrogen in New York.**

We must also prioritize energy efficiency and weatherization to reduce demand and enable customer savings. And then deploy technologies to deliver cleaner fuels.

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

Thank you.

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