

City of Kingston Conservation Advisory Council
420 Broadway
Kingston NY 12401



June 29, 2022

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

The mission of the City of Kingston Conservation Advisory Council, in Ulster County, is to ensure the conservation of the City of Kingston's natural resources and the enhancement and protection of its environment while fostering unified action on environmental matters.

We are commenting on the following section from Chapter 19, which specifically calls for funding for Conservation Advisory Commissions and Environmental Management Councils.

LU5. Mapping, Research, Planning, and Assistance
Page 288 Assist local governments to create land-use policies:

We support the recommendation that Conservation Advisory Commissions and Environmental Management Councils be funded. These volunteer groups have an important and primary role in preserving open space, including producing natural resources inventories and open space plans and taking steps such as community preservation plans and providing input on their municipalities' comprehensive plans and zoning. These groups help protect important natural areas that sequester greenhouse gases and store water to enhance resilience. Members are knowledgeable, dedicated community volunteers. Although CACs and EMCs do important work and are set up and appointed by the municipality, often the municipality provides no funding. Funds would be used for such items as:

- Training
- Resources for the many details of applying for grants and carrying them out
- Geographic Information Systems software or assistance
- Professional memberships in associations
- Clerical help
- Printing supplies
- Marketing and public outreach materials
- Refreshments for public meetings
- Guest speakers

Funding EMCs and CACs will provide important resources so that these groups can continue to provide valuable services to protect open space and conserve natural resources.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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