**Statement by Carlos Gavilondo**

**National Grid, New York**

Good evening, I’m Carlos Gavilondo here for National Grid, and I’m here to tell you that ***There is a Better Way*.**

As a gas and electric utility in New York, entrusted to deliver safe, reliable and affordable energy to our 4.2 million customers, **National Grid is The Energy Transition Company**. We are deeply engaged in the analysis of the Draft Scoping Plan, which favors the use of electricity for heating and cooking in homes and businesses, and proposes moving away from the use of natural gas for heating, cooking and all appliances, beginning as early as 2024.

Last month we launched our [Vision](https://www.nationalgrid.com/us/fossilfree) to fully eliminate fossil fuels from our US gas and electric systems to achieve the requirements of the CLCPA on time, in an affordable and reliable way that preserves choice for our customers. Our approach is pragmatic, and does not place the State’s future in the hands of a single solution for heating and cooking.

We aren’t saying that the CAC plan is wrong, and that our approach is right. We are saying that we need to not look at this problem as binary. We can have it all – a more affordable pathway, choice, resilience and reliability – and get greenhouse gases down to the levels required by the CLCPA.

For variable renewable electricity to be reliable, it must be backed up with flexible emissions-free generation and/or long-duration storage. This draft Scoping Plan acknowledges that it is not known which technologies will be prevalent in 2040, and they do not exist today.

Building the electric network to meet a new winter peak, that is further heightened by electrifying all heating load, is ***not*** cost-effective. Currently NYS has a summer-peaking electric system. A better approach is **leveraging existing networks –** to deliver no- and low-carbon fuels to steady generation units that will be able to back up variable output from renewables, resulting in cost-effective reliable electric supply.  A **coordinated gas and electric** decarbonization strategy is a **better way to manage the costs and feasibility risks of the State’s plan.**

The CAC and the State must study options other than full electrification for heating. The plan needs to consider additional sources of renewable energy other than electrification to lower emissions. The linchpin of National Grid’s fossil-free plan is the ability to procure RNG and hydrogen, which must be considered. This would require legislative enactment of renewable heating fuel standard, and we urge the Council to include such a standard in the Final Scoping Plan.

Thank you.

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