

June 30, 2022

Sciuga Custom Builders
2339 Milton Avenue
Solvay, NY 13209

Dear Climate Action Council:

I applaud New York state for its efforts to be a leader in green energy and the commitment to reduce our carbon footprint. The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) is a huge undertaking and requires commitment and sacrifice by all. The Climate Action Council's (CAC) draft scoping plan is an admirable goal, however I think we need to reassess some of the items in the proposed plan.

There are definitely areas where we as a community can do better to reduce our carbon footprint and preserve our planet for future generations. One of my biggest concerns with the draft scoping plan is the time frame that is outlined.

Eliminating natural gas in new construction homes beginning in 2024 is concerning for several reasons. First, this will add significant price increases to the costs of a new home, which will remove thousands of people from the housing market because they will not be able to afford new homes. According to the National Association of Home Builders, for each \$1,000.00 increase in the price of a median-priced new home, 117,932 American households will be priced out of the market. This is a huge blow for those potential homeowners that want to purchase a new home because even under current building codes, is much more efficient than the older housing stock available on the market. It is also alarming because it jeopardizes the jobs of thousands of people that are employed in the new construction industry in New York state. It can also be crippling to an industry that is still experiencing significant pricing increases and supply shortages due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Second, currently in new residential construction the standard electric service into a new home is 200 amps. If we have to eliminate natural gas, homes will have to have an electric furnace and/or heat pump, electric range, electric clothes dryer and electric hot water tank as well as a charger for an electric vehicle. This would exceed the 200 amp service, which would mean larger services going into these single family homes. National Grid has stated quite clearly that the current electric grid cannot sustain this level of electrification.

The draft scoping plan also eliminates natural gas appliances for home heating, cooking, water heating and clothes drying beginning in 2030. While newer homes generally have a 200 amp service, homes built prior to 1980 have 100 - 150 amp services. If someone living in a 1960s-era home with a gas furnace has to replace the furnace in 2030, it will require not only a

change to an electric furnace and/or heat pump, but also an increase in the home's electric service to accommodate the new electrical demand. This would be an extremely expensive undertaking.

I implore the CAC to take a step back and reevaluate some aspects of this plan. First, there should be a focus to update the reliability of the electric grid prior to the proposed increase of the electric supply so that our grid can sustain the increased usage. Second, there should be additional focus on the affordability of the proposed changes to New Yorkers. All of these changes are quite daunting when you consider the additional costs to New Yorkers that are already struggling with the current economic climate and unprecedented inflation.

Let's work together to lower emissions and increase energy efficiency for all New Yorkers while providing affordable solutions and ensuring adequate supply.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dana Sciuga Bakowski

Dana Sciuga Bakowski
Operations Manager