



Tuesday, May 3, 2022

TESTIMONY:

Regina Myer, President, Downtown Brooklyn Partnership

Re: Climate Action Council Hearing: Draft Scoping Plan,

Good afternoon, my name is Regina Myer, and I am the President of the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership, the organization that manages the three BIDs that comprise Downtown Brooklyn: the Fulton Mall Improvement Association; the Court Livingston Schermerhorn BID; and the Metrotech BID. I'd like to thank the members of the Climate Action Council for their work in addressing what is the most pressing issue of our time, and for taking the lead on a plan that will be a model for other states in the US.

Downtown Brooklyn is home to more than fifty thousand residents, and six thousand businesses employing over seventy thousand workers. In the pipeline, the area has multiple mixed-use projects in anticipation of even greater growth. While there is much to support in the Draft Scoping Plan, there is reason to fear that some of the more radical aspects will result in limited choice and high costs to consumers – public and private – a loss of jobs, and impairment to NYC's economic well-being. By banning new gas service to existing and new buildings and banning gas appliances we run the risk of forcing onerous and costly conversions at the expense of those who can least afford them. Further, these restrictions will prohibit economic development in New York, result in the loss of jobs, and loss of competitive edge.

We urge you to study the repercussions of these proposed prohibitions and create a plan that is inclusive of a diversity of fuels, including all the clean technologies at our disposal – especially renewable natural gas (RNG) and green hydrogen – rather than relying solely on wind and solar. The Plan can meet the emission limits required by the Climate Act without causing hardship.

I'd like to thank the Committee again for tackling this issue and look forward to working with you to implement and monitor the success of these measures.