My name is Lynn Saxton. I am the co-chair of the Western New York Chapter of the Climate Reality Project, and a Sierra Club member. I am a retired High School Social Studies Teacher and the grandmother of 3. I have turned my energies to climate activism because I fear for the future of my grandchildren and former students.

Distributed energy resources (DERs) like parking canopies are not only essential for NY State to meet its emissions targets, but they will play a critical role in keeping consumer energy prices low as the state transitions to carbon-free electricity. Electricity generation at or near the point of consumption helps reduce the supply charges that customers pay, especially during peak summer demand, and it helps reduce the frequency and duration of curtailment events.

Buildings and transportation together account for more than 60% of New York’s greenhouse gas emissions. It is widely accepted that electrification is the only viable way of substantially decarbonizing these sectors, which means that in the coming years, urban electricity consumption will increase dramatically. DERs such as solar parking canopies will play an important role in keeping long-term delivery rates low during this transition by reducing the amount of expensive transmission infrastructure that will be required to meet future urban electricity demand. I strongly urge the Council to heed the report [*Decarbonizing New York Through Optimizing Distributed Resources*](https://www.vibrantcleanenergy.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/VCE-VS-NY_Final.pdf) and proposed significantly increased DER generation targets than the current ones.

There are other very good reasons for encouraging rapid adoption of urban solar canopies:

1. Solar canopies ameliorate urban heat-island effect by shading the paved surface, which is prone to overheating.
2. These solar arrays boost comfort and reduce pollution and energy wasted in cooling the cars by shading them in the summer. They also provide protection from rain and snow. Shoppers would prefer a solar carport to an uncovered parking lot, boosting business activity.
3. These solar canopies could provide pollution-free electricity to co-located electric vehicle charging stations.
4. They would contribute to the local property-tax base.
5. Parking lots and large rooftops are ideal locations for solar electricity generation from a land-use perspective; they help reduce the use of farmland or wilderness areas for solar development.
6. A large open parking lot is one of the most unaesthetic urban sights and one of the worst uses of urban land. Solar canopies redeem some of what a city has already lost to this poor land-use. They help extract more value from this land and ameliorate some of the aesthetic and environmental damage.
7. Every driver prefers a covered/shaded spot to an uncovered one.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I urge you to dismiss fossil fuel industry disinformation and to follow the CLCPA plan.