

Don Burdick

[REDACTED]
Dunkirk, NY 14048

April 7, 2022

Climate Action Council
Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act

Draft Scoping Plan Comments

NYSERDA

17 Columbia Circle

Albany, NY 12203-6399

Dear Sirs / Madam;

I am writing in response to the Climate Action Council's plan and timetable for banning reliable, affordable sources of energy in New York State for NYS residents. I have read much of your plan and do not feel it is a responsible nor financially feasible plan for the residents of New York State. In my review of the situation, I believe your plan will eliminate reliable, affordable sources of energy adding further financial burden to New Yorkers, New York businesses and especially those who live in rural areas of our State.

"Climate Action" advocates promise that renewables like solar and wind will replace the energy produced by fossil fuels. Currently, renewables (Wind and Solar), produce only about 12% of our energy needs, non-renewable sources provide 87% (i.e.: Petroleum 34.7%, Natural Gas 34%, Coal 10%, Nuclear 9%) as noted by the US Energy Information Administration in 2021. As a culturally alert and industrialized society we need power 24/7/365, the wind doesn't always come up when the sun goes down. In New York State, we have snow storms and frigid weather to contend with, if your solar panels are covered with snow, as often is the case, no energy is produced. Or your vehicle is stuck in a blizzard on the Thruway, your electric vehicle would not survive the inclement environment. These renewable energy sources feeding our electrical grid, which also is seriously deficient in capability, are not reliable enough nor sufficient to support our needs fossil fuels are required.

Increasing the use of wind and solar, neither of which can be throttled to meet demand, and both of which prove unreliable in crisis, have driven coal and natural gas generators

off-line. This is very unfortunate for electrical consumers in our State. Wind simply runs counter to our needs ... it generates too much power when we tend not to need it, and generates too little when we need more. The storage capacity to account for this doesn't exist and may never to the degree necessary to off-set fossil fuel production and storage capabilities.

A recent Harvard University study found that wind turbines actually cause more warming than emission reductions would avert. The [2018 study](#) conducted by scientists from Harvard, published in the academic journal *Joule*, found that wind turbines cause significant local increases in surface temperatures in the areas where they are located. Wind turbines cause local temperature increases at the surface of the earth by causing air to mix throughout portions of the atmosphere.

According to the study, wind turbines measuring between 100 and 150 meters (328ft to 498 ft) operating at night can pull down warmer air from as far as 1,640 feet in the air down to the surface, warming the surface of the earth, where it would impact the people, plants, and animals living near the turbines. The study looks at what would happen if the United States tried to obtain all of its energy from wind turbines. It found the mixing of warmer air and cooler air results in a temperature increase of 0.54 degrees Celsius (0.97 degrees F) in the areas where the wind turbines would be located, the amount of warming experienced in some regions would be even greater. Surface temperatures in the United States increase more due to wind turbines mixing air in the atmosphere than would be offset by reducing emissions. The only time that reduced emissions might impact surface temperatures more than the wind turbines, themselves, is if the entire world reduces their carbon dioxide emissions, but [if you believe](#) China will actually reduce their emissions, I've got a bridge to sell you.

Fossil fuels themselves reduce its harm by improving our quality of life to be able to afford protections and technology against climate change. Alex Epstein, author of "*The Moral Case for Fossil Fuels*" states that fossil fuels have enabled humans to flourish and that abundant fossil fuels are especially important for poor people. Fossil fuels have provided to us an amazing productive ability that has allowed us to experience the planet as livable. Allowed us to build a durable civilization resilient to extreme heat, cold, floods and storms. Fossil fuels are cheap, plentiful and a reliable source of energy. Fossil fuels don't take a natural safe environment and make it dangerous; they empower us to take a dangerous environment and make it habitable.

Key elements of your plan:

- January 1, 2024 (2Yrs) - Ban new natural gas service to existing homes and businesses and new construction in NYS.

- By 2030 (8Yrs) – Ban the sale of natural gas appliances for home heating, cooking, water heating, cloths drying in NYS.
- By 2035 (13Yrs) – Ban the sale of gasoline powered vehicles in NYS.

The degree of electrification required to accomplish your goals is not realistic or affordable at this time given our NYS and federal debt. Tremendous challenges would need to be addressed, including infrastructure (e.g.: power line capacities which are presently undersized; charging stations which are few; electric power storage which is technologically challenged, battery availability/capability which are limited and incapable of matching fossil fuel capabilities; significant increase in generation capabilities will be required, while NYS has taken fossil fuel plants off-line; affordability and consumer acceptance of an all-electric lifestyle).

At this juncture only 2% of the world's cars are electric, buyers continue to prefer internal combustion vehicles over electric vehicles due to price, range, recharge infrastructure and cost ... and this is after government subsidies and tax breaks that have been provided for years. There are about 289 million cars on roads in the U.S.A in 2021, 98% are gas powered. The electrical grid and infrastructure simply are not in place to support the electrification of the private car fleet, nationally or in NYS specific.

If the sale of gas-powered vehicles are prohibited in NYS, what is to prevent NYS residents bordering other states to purchase vehicles elsewhere, internal combustion vehicles are a known value and performance, electrical vehicles not so much.

Green technologies are significantly more material intensive than our current energy mix according to the World Bank. Raw rare earth materials are 50-70% of the cost to manufacture solar panels and batteries. Rare earth materials must be mined, China is the single largest source of most of our critical rare earth materials. The U.S. has many of the critical materials needed but will require expanded mining to support our national needs, mining in this country has been near completely banned by environmentalists. To compound this the life span of solar and wind technology units have a very short life-span, about 20 years, and they create significant disposable issues at the end of their useful life.

The timing of the introduction of your plan, during a period of inflation in the U.S. that is at the highest level in four (4) decades will compound the disastrous financial impact on all New Yorkers and New York businesses. Bloomberg economist estimate that Americans will need to be prepared to “shell out” and additional \$5,200 per year for the so-called “inflation tax”, for food, energy and housing to just get by, in effect an extra

\$433 a month of your household budget will be consumed by inflation. That is now, and may continue or escalate for years given our present outstanding debt. Your plan would force markets to change faster than innovation allows. Any plan put into effect should encourage and invest in traditional energy industries (i.e.: oil, gas, coal, nuclear) as well instead of just focusing on green energy options that many families in New York can't afford. Those in rural areas need traditional fuel to run trucks and tractors to service their farms and feed their communities. The high cost of energy to the agricultural community escalates the cost to feed our families.

I am asking Albany, our Legislature and elected officials, to reject the Climate Action Council plan that will result in increased energy costs and burden to the residents of all New York State.

Sincerely;

Don Burdick

Cc: Andrew Goodell, NYS Assembly

George Borrello, NYS Senate