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Testimony on Climate 5/3/22

For most of my life, when the inevitable worries arise, I have looked up at the skies or gone to the edge of the ocean or for a walk in a forest and been comforted that, whatever may be going on in my rather fortunate life, the seasons will still make their rounds, the tides will come and go, the earth will spin on its axis. But we have damaged the earth so badly, that nature itself is now my biggest worry.

In this year, my son's first year of college, nearly every trip to school has been accompanied by a weather event. On his first night, his dorm was flooded by hurricane Ida and he slept on the gym floor. Since then, there have been flood watches, blizzards, squalls and snow bombs, weather words I never knew growing up. Records are breaking daily all over the world with fires, floods, tornadoes, heat waves wreaking havoc. We are changing the currents of the oceans, the whole earth's climate, our ability to thrive. As things are going, my son won't get to find comfort in nature as I have.

We are on the road to more and more extreme climate disasters and yet leaders, corporations fail to act.

The Community Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) is designed to generate a fair and inclusive transition to a clean energy economy. Fulfilling its mandates is both a legal and a moral obligation.

The CLCPA prioritizes workers and the health and welfare of low-income communities and communities of color at the frontlines of the climate crisis. The scoping plan should follow the spirit and letter of the law to include strong public health guidelines and labor standards including prevailing wage, benefits, and local hire; funding for workforce development; and more.

The situation is far too dire to buy into false and half-measures. We must stop burning things. Biofuels, "renewable" natural gas, biomass, waste incineration will continue to make us sick and damage our atmosphere. We must focus on transforming our energy to renewable zero-emission technologies that have been proven to work, like solar and wind technologies.

NYSERDA estimates they need \$10-15 billion per year to make the just transition to a clean-energy economy that the law requires. These funds must be provided, whether through polluter fees or through taxes on gas or taxes. New York must establish a dedicated funding mechanism—by legislation if necessary—to ensure reductions of both greenhouse gas and co-pollutant emissions and to begin the state's large-scale transition to an equitable renewable energy economy. An equitable economy-wide pollution fee is likely the best approach to generate the necessary funds in a just manner.

The Climate Action Council put forth three scenarios for our climate future. Of the three, NY Renews is advocating for scenario three: low-to-no bioenergy and hydrogen combustion and the simultaneous acceleration of electrification of both buildings and transportation to ensure clean

air and a healthy environment. In order to reach a zero-emissions power sector by 2040, New York needs a rapid, large-scale transition away from fossil fuels. That's not politics. That's physics.

The Scoping Plan must ensure that the mandates put forth by the Climate Action Council are legally enforceable against industries and include timelines for the reduction of emissions by sector. Provisions for environmental justice and emission reduction mean nothing if they cannot be enforced or if there aren't rules in place for what happens when our climate justice laws are broken.

I hope every member of the Climate Action Council feels the full weight of the thousands and thousands of New Yorkers who are despairing for the lack of visible, transformative change to address the dire consequences of unchecked climate change. I hope you use your position of leadership to make that change, decisively and quickly and understanding we are all needed to save each other and our earth.

Thank you for listening.