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TO: New York State Climate Action Council

The devastating planet-wide effects of the decision by the US Supreme Court gutting the ability of the EPA to limit carbon emissions will be with us and the rest of those living on Earth for generations.

It is therefore incumbent upon the states to pick up the slack to limit emissions of climate-changing greenhouse gasses. New York State must continue to **lead the way** by taking **more stringent actions** than originally contemplated by the Climate Action Council, thus setting an example for many other states to follow.

I will focus on the built environment, since it is responsible for a major fraction of the climate changing gasses in New York State. Further, building stock turns over very slowly, so that any structure erected today is likely to still be here in fifty or even eighty years. Unless a structure undergoes major renovation, it will continue to be responsible for the same GHG emissions for the rest of its lifetime as it will cause when it is constructed. It is thus vital that new construction be designed and built so as to be responsible for *as little GHG emissions as is feasible with today's technology*.

Recommendation 1: The most recent **Stretch Energy Building Code** be made mandatory state-wide within two years, which is quite an adequate amount of time for builders, architects and contractors to tweak their designs and techniques as necessary.

The above recommendation addresses *total building energy use*, but *not the building's net carbon emissions*. These are addressed in the following recommendations.

Recommendation 2: The goals of the proposed All Electric Buildings Act be achieved statewide as originally written in the bill, with the elimination of fossil fuel heating earlier for newly constructed low rise buildings and somewhat later for newly constructed buildings of seven stories or more. Several other states and New York City have similar laws and similarly tight deadlines.

However, I believe that it is important to provide a short-term "escape hatch" to obviate possible difficulties in meeting the fossil-fuel free heating system required by this recommendation. Hence the following Recommendation:

Recommendation 3. For the *first three years* during which the fossil fuel free heating requirement of Recommendation 2 is required of a newly constructed building, that building may instead incorporate a traditional fossil fuel heating system provided that it also has installed a rooftop solar generating system capable of producing *at least half of the electrical energy consumption* typical of that type of building and its use.

Recommendation 4. After the expiration of the three year period in which a rooftop solar system may be installed as an alternative (Recommendation 3) to Recommendation 2; the installation of rooftop solar shall be *mandatory in all new construction*.

Exemption from, or reduction of the size of the solar system required by this Recommendation 4 shall be permitted when such a solar system is not feasible because of rooftop shading or similar considerations, or when local grid conditions do not permit the injection of the proposed quantity of solar energy, or when the necessary rooftop space needed for such a solar system is greater than 35% of the total rooftop area.

Thank you for consideration of these ideas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. P. P.' or similar, written in a cursive style.