Good afternoon,

My name is Carol Widom and I am a resident of Marine Park, Brooklyn. Marine Park is home to 10,000 working class families with a large proportion of teachers, firefighters, nurses, the essential workers that are part of the backbone of the neighborhoods in our city.

We are adjacent to Jamaica Bay and close to ocean rising sea levels which makes my community especially vulnerable to the impact of climate change.

As a community we work hard to preserve our beautiful Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, where many of us volunteer. We clean and volunteer in the upkeep of Marine Park with the same name as the neighborhood, a neighborhood with 530 acres of grassland and precious salt marsh and that is increasingly vulnerable to the disastrous effects of climate change. In a write-up on residential areas, the New York Times, dubbed Marine Park the most stable neighborhood in the country and now it could be anything but considering the increased threats of severe damage and flooding of homes, businesses, and the very cost of lives, as we saw happen a few months ago due to Hurricane Ida and the flooding that trapped people in basements.

Families have lived here for generations and seniors now are facing the possibility of not being able to remain in their homes due to rising costs of utilities. The CLCPA must set clear targets for replacing polluting fuels with clean energy sources built with the input of our communities.

In Marine Park alone, poor bus service has led to a glut of traffic as hundreds of residents are impelled to instead take their cars to the subway. We need to expand bus lines and routes with clean, electrified buses.

We need the government to fund community-led plans that lower costs, create good jobs and make sure we all have clean air.