

Inter-County Association of Western New York

Representing the Counties of Allegany, Cattaraugus, Cayuga, Chautauqua, Chemung, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tompkins, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-11-IC

A RESOLUTION URGING EXTENDED TIMETABLE AND COMPREHENSIVE COST ANALYSIS OF NEW YORK STATE CLIMATE ACTION COUNCIL'S DRAFT SCOPING PLAN FOR NEW YORK'S CLIMATE LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY PROTECTION ACT (THE CLIMATE ACT)

Motioned by: Brooke Harris (*Allegany*)

Seconded by: Tom Sweet (*Chemung*)

WHEREAS, the New York State Legislature in 2019 enacted New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (the "Climate Act,") which is the most aggressive decarbonization policy in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Climate Act targets the goal of reaching "net zero" emissions by 2050, which will be phased in through progressively stricter carbon emission reductions, including a 40 percent reduction by 2030 and 85 percent reduction by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the Climate Act further mandates that 100 percent of the electricity used in New York State must come from renewable energy sources by 2040; and

WHEREAS, multiple business advocacy organizations, energy industry representatives, and energy industry stakeholders expressed grave concerns about the Climate Act's impact on New York State's employers, energy consumers, and economy as a whole prior to and upon the Act's passage, and these were largely unaddressed in the final law; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Climate Action Council, which is a body of 22 appointed individuals charged with creating a blueprint for the Climate Act's emissions targets and placing New York State on a path toward carbon neutrality, released a Draft Scoping Plan on December 20, 2021, that mandates hundreds of different measures affecting all aspects of New Yorkers' daily lives and community activities; and

WHEREAS, the mandates included in the Draft Scoping Plan include bans on new gas service to existing and newly constructed homes and buildings beginning in 2024, a ban on the use of natural gas appliances commencing in 2030, a ban on the replacement of traditional heating systems in existing homes beginning in 2030, and a ban on the sale of gasoline vehicles commencing in 2035; and

WHEREAS, a 120-day comment period for the New York State Climate Action Council to receive feedback from the public on the Draft Scoping Plan, via the online public comment form, e-mail, and U.S. mail commenced on January 1, 2022, and this comment period ends on June 10, 2022; and

WHEREAS, New York State's counties, the level of government closest to the people, were afforded no input in this process, including participation on the Land Use and Local Government Advisory Group, which did not include any members who currently work in local government; and

WHEREAS, the Draft Scoping Plan lacks a comprehensive and detailed cost analysis of implementing the recommendations, which is conservatively estimated to be upwards of \$300 billion dollars to be borne by taxpayers and energy ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, the Climate Act applies only to New York State, which is already a leader in clean energy production and accounts for just 0.4 percent of global carbon emissions, rendering any attainment of “net zero” emissions meaningless in terms of any impact on our own or the global climate, while burdening New Yorkers with extreme costs; and

WHEREAS, Western New Yorkers are struggling under the pressure of the highest gas prices on record and soaring inflation, and they deserve an honest and transparent cost-benefit analysis of these recommendations as well as an extended period in which to review and submit comments on proposals that will have far-reaching impacts on our state’s economy, affordability, and quality of life; now therefore be it

RESOLVED:

1. That the Inter-County Association of Western New York has adopted this resolution, and respectfully requests that the Climate Action Council provide a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of all recommendations in its draft and final scoping plans, and accordingly extend its timetable for implementation and public comment.

2. That the Secretary of the Inter-County Association of Western New York shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner and Climate Action Council Co-Chair Basil Seggos, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority Acting President and Climate Action Council Co-Chair Doreen Harris, Senator George M. Borrello, Assemblyman Joseph Giglio, the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC), and the Inter-County Association of Western New York.

This is to Certify that I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Inter-County Association of Western New York, have compared the foregoing copy of resolution with the original resolution now on file in this office and which was duly adopted by the Association at a session held on the 17th day of June 2022 and that the same is a true copy of said original and of the whole thereof.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the official seal of the Inter-County Association of Western New York dated June 17, 2022.



Lisa K. Casey, Secretary
Inter-County Association of Western New York

Sponsored by: Allegany County, Moved by: Brooke Harris (*Allegany*) and Seconded by: Tom Sweet (*Chemung*).