My name is Paul Fisk and I am a trained member of the Climate Reality Project and I give public presentations on the urgent need to respond to the climate crisis. I am also retired from nearly 30 years in the New York State Budget Division. I am using my retirement to do what I can to urge effective action against this existential threat.

The scoping plan emphasizes low-carbon procurement, workforce development, and incentive-based measures, and posits that near-term emissions reductions will come from energy efficiency and limited electrification, while longer-term reductions will depend on innovation including low-carbon fuels and carbon capture and storage (CCS).

The final scoping plan must clarify that this chapter’s objective is to promote climate and environmental justice, not business development. There must be support and leverage of public procurement to promote low-carbon materials; demand-side changes may be made to reduce materials waste.

Industrial heat should be electrified wherever feasible. Reliance on green hydrogen must be limited, especially where hydrogen combustion would overburden disadvantaged communities. We need data collection and reporting requirements to accurately show how industrial facilities impact these communities.

The sector of this chapter must omit any reliance on carbon capture and sequestration, (CCS) which is not a true zero-emissions measure.

Last but not the least, the final plan should call for a permanent moratorium on proof-of-work cryptocurrency mining—an enormously energy-intensive industry that threatens our climate goals. Even if such mining operations use renewable energy, they undermine our climate goals because this renewable energy could be used to displace carbon-intensive energy for other productive sectors of our economy.

I appreciate the efforts made by the council members and applaud their accomplishments to date. I would ask that they resist industry efforts to water down recommendations and do what they can to strengthen efforts to combat climate change.