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Grand Gorge, NY 12434

May 22, 2022

Draft Scoping Plan Comments
NYSERDA
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399

Re: Climate Action Council Draft Scoping Plan Comments

To Whom It May Concern:

The Climate Action Council Draft Scoping Plan goals are commendable, but lofty, and the process by which this plan proposes to meet its goals as outlined is unaffordable, unrealistic and places an insurmountable burden on smaller communities, particularly rural upstate regions. The foundation for implementation of the plan is based on “mandating” change rather than incentivizing and enabling change in an affordable and realistic manner over time.

The Draft Scoping Plan estimates the net present value of direct costs from the low carbon plan relative to the current energy system for the period 2020 through 2050 is \$500 billion. The Draft Scoping Plan estimates the annual net direct costs from the low carbon plan relative to the current energy system is approximately \$20 billion in 2030 and \$70 billion by 2050. The plan estimates these costs will be offset by global benefits from reduced carbon emissions and public health improvements. However, the health benefits related to improved air quality and better health realized from walking or public transportation are only applicable in urban areas where air quality will be slightly improved and public transport and walkability to services are possible. Therefore, the cost burden and impacts are absorbed by rural communities while urban areas receive the lions’ share of the benefits.

Although the idea of carbon neutrality is commendable, the mandates proposed along with the short timeframe to implement these changes will have adverse impacts on our rural communities. I am supportive of environmentally friendly solutions to global matters, like climate change, however, I believe legislative actions need to be realistic, affordable and in the best interest of all New York State residents.

Sincerely,

Joyce C. DeVivo