**PUBLIC HEARING STATEMENT**

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I’m Laurie Poltynski, Director of Customer and Community Engagement for National Grid.

Thank you to the CAC for holding these hearings. The Final Scoping Plan will lead to regulations that will affect every New Yorker for decades to come. It is clear from these hearings that there is great passion for these issues, and National Grid wants to do our part. We are fully aligned with the State’s goals, but believe there is a better way to get there that is compliant with the CLCPA. To date, comments have focused on two general categories those who favor the current draft with a focus on an “electrify everything” approach, and those who favor a more diverse “hybrid” solution. Electrification will play a crucial role in meeting our climate goals to be sure, and National Grid will electrify a lot, **but the enormous challenge in front of us demands a range of practical, pragmatic and cost-effective solutions beyond merely electrification.** National Grid’s plans to fully eliminate fossil fuels from our US networks and our plan will achieve the requirements of the CLCPA on time, in an affordable and reliable way that preserves choice for our customers – **and does not place the State’s future in the hands of a single solution.**

It is also clear from the last few weeks that the general public are not aware of or engaged with the issues being debated, and have little to no understanding at this time of the broad implications the Final Scoping Plan will have on their daily lives. **The Council should undertake a public education campaign prior to finalizing the Scoping Plan.**

It should be noted that the CLCPA does not require absolute zero in emissions. It is hard to envision how the State will achieve its climate goals without both a decarbonized gas network and combustion – and in this region around Tupper Lake, most residents are on fuel oil, propane or wood for heating. National Grid secured the Tri-State line for these residents and the State must ensure that any new transmission is as reliable and affordable.

We also strongly encourage the Council to deal with other critical flaws in the plan. Those include: (1) significant flaws in “life-cycle emission accounting”; (2) the lack of a cost analysis; and (3) the lack of customer choice

**We urge the Council to address these issues and consider a hybrid pathway.**

Thank you.