

To the Members of the Climate Action Council

As a human living on planet Earth, I know that climate change is one of the most controversial challenges of our time. It can not be ignored and we must all work together to find viable solutions.

The CAC must educate. As a resident of NYS, I know that the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) is a life-changing initiative. However, the general public is not aware of any of these regulations. The CAC failed by not conducting an extensive public outreach program. Someone called it “the most important piece of legislation... that no one knows about”.

The CAC must consider affordability. As a resident of NYC, I can pay my current heating and cooling bills. I know that three times more energy is sent out on the coldest day in the Winter (with natural gas) than on the hottest day in the Summer (with electricity). Studies show that over 50% of the buildings within NYC cannot easily be electrified. Everyone can not pay for an immediate change. It must take place gradually and utility costs should not increase dramatically.

The CAC must consider reliability. As an engineer, I know that you can't change physics. Electricity is an energy carrier and not an energy source. Naturally occurring resources like coal, oil, wood, natural gas, geothermal and even uranium can be collected and sold. You can not find electricity, it must be manufactured. Solar and wind generation is not dispatchable. You must move electricity from where you make it to where you need it.

The CAC must allow choice. The CLCPA and the CAC outlines what needs to be done but not how we will get there. Legislation should not be picking winners and losers. Subsidies don't create a market. Solar power is 20% efficient at best whereas distributed cogeneration can easily achieve 90%. Customer choice and the free market should determine how this plays out.

The answer is a hybrid approach where everything is complementary. All energy sources working alongside all technologies will ensure a just and equitable future for everyone.

-Richard Mezic-