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July 1, 2022

To the Climate Action Council:

Three years ago, the passage of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) was a milestone moment in our state's effort to address the climate change crisis. It was as much of a wake-up call as it was a piece of legislation that provided New York with the goals and clean energy standards necessary to actually help turn the tide against what has up to this point been a steady fossil fuel driven journey toward irrevocable climate damage.

Fast forward to the present, and we face another wake-up call: despite all of the ambitious greenhouse gas reduction requirements contained in the CLCPA, even those careful plans won't ensure success if the CAC does not take the next step of producing a Scoping Plan that thoughtfully and thoroughly guides the regulatory, legislative and budgetary actions that must be taken to reach those goals.

Speaking as duly elected representatives of the more than 8 million residents of New York City, whose health, wellness and livability depend on the course we set for the present and future protection of our environment, we urge the CAC to listen to our voice and heed our collective call to fully implement the clean energy targets of the CLCPA. As a demonstration of that support, **attached is a resolution titled "The Climate Plan to Protect New York"** calling on the CAC and Governor Hochul to ensure that the draft Scoping Plan meets the spirit and maintains the substance of the CLCPA's climate change policies. The resolution has been introduced **at the request of Queens Borough President Richards** and is co-sponsored by a majority of the City Council – **with support from 32 Councilmembers: Restler, Hanif, De La Rosa, Gutiérrez, Riley, Gennaro, Hudson, Joseph, Avilés, Brewer, Louis, Dinowitz, Won, Krishnan, Nurse, Schulman, Menin, Williams, Ossé, Brannan, Cabán, Rivera, Powers, Bottcher, Marte, Hanks, Abreu, Farías, Sanchez, Brooks-Powers, Narcisse and Velázquez.**

We understand that the task before you is challenging and appreciate that the CAC has been so dedicated in its work and efforts to hold statewide hearings and other public comment opportunities. But we also fully recognize the strength and resources of the powerful fossil fuel companies that have spent millions to undermine the state's clean energy agenda. We sincerely believe that the profits-driven interests of these multi-billion dollar corporations should not be allowed to outweigh the public health and safety of millions of residents across thousands of communities throughout our city and state.

By now, it has become abundantly clear that climate change is not just some area of abstract, academic discussion. The effect we are seeing, right here and right now, is a clear and present danger

to our communities. From devastating and deadly floods this past year to public transit and power outages, to toxically polluted air that threatens our children, seniors and all those living with compromised immune and respiratory issues, climate change puts everyone and everything we care so deeply about in jeopardy. But the CAC has within its power the ability to make a tangible and turning point difference in the fight to decarbonize our economy and maximize investments in climate justice, green job creation and health protections for low-income and communities of color that for far too long have borne the burden as hubs of dirty fossil fuels.

The Council takes great pride in its history as a climate change policy leader, from the passage of bold new climate laws like Local Law 97 and a ban on gas hookups in new buildings. What we are asking for now, through this resolution, is for the CAC to join us in taking similarly forceful yet necessary actions statewide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lincoln Restler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Council Member Lincoln Restler
33rd Council District



Legislation Details (With Text)

File #: Res 0169-2022 **Version:** * **Name:** Climate Action Council to draft, and the Governor to implement, a final Climate Action Council Scoping Plan that commits to meeting CLCPA targets and bold climate & environmental justice action in New York.

Type: Resolution **Status:** Committee

In control: Committee on Environmental Protection

On agenda: 5/19/2022

Enactment date: **Enactment #:**

Title: Resolution calling for the Climate Action Council to draft, and the Governor to implement, a final Climate Action Council Scoping Plan that commits to meeting CLCPA targets and bold climate & environmental justice action in New York.

Sponsors: Lincoln Restler, Shahana K. Hanif, Carmen N. De La Rosa, Jennifer Gutiérrez, Kevin C. Riley, James F. Gennaro, Crystal Hudson, Rita C. Joseph, Alexa Avilés, Gale A. Brewer, Farah N. Louis, Eric Dinowitz, Julie Won, Shekar Krishnan, Sandy Nurse, Lynn C. Schulman, Julie Menin, Nantasha M. Williams, Chi A. Ossé, Justin L. Brannan, Tiffany Cabán, Carlina Rivera, Keith Powers, Erik D. Bottcher, Christopher Marte, Kamillah Hanks, Shaun Abreu, Pierina Ana Sanchez, Marjorie Velázquez, Mercedes Narcisse, Amanda Farías, Selvena N. Brooks-Powers, (by request of the Queens Borough President)

Indexes:

Attachments: 1. Res. No. 169, 2. May 19, 2022 - Stated Meeting Agenda

| Date | Ver. | Action By | Action | Result |
|-----------|------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| 5/19/2022 | * | City Council | Introduced by Council | |
| 5/19/2022 | * | City Council | Referred to Comm by Council | |

Res. No. 169

Resolution calling for the Climate Action Council to draft, and the Governor to implement, a final Climate Action Council Scoping Plan that commits to meeting CLCPA targets and bold climate & environmental justice action in New York.

By Council Members Restler, Hanif, De La Rosa, Gutiérrez, Riley, Gennaro, Hudson, Joseph, Avilés, Brewer, Louis, Dinowitz, Won, Krishnan, Nurse, Schulman, Menin, Williams, Ossé, Brannan, Cabán, Rivera, Powers, Bottcher, Marte, Hanks, Abreu, Sanchez, Velázquez, Narcisse, Farías and Brooks-Powers (by request of the Queens Borough President)

Whereas, New Yorkers are experiencing the effects of the climate crisis, such as worsening storms, flooding, sea level rise and heat waves; and

Whereas, in 2019 the New York State Legislature passed the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, committing New York to a net-zero carbon economy by 2050, a 100% zero emission electric

sector by 2040, a 40% reduction from 1990 levels in statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, 70% renewable energy by 2030, and 40% of the benefits of spending on climate programs to disadvantaged communities; and

Whereas, The effects of climate change are often inequitably distributed, with communities of color, children, older people, and low income communities, who often lack the financial and community resources to adequately respond to weather-related disasters, more likely to experience the deleterious effects; and

Whereas, According to the International Panel on Climate Change, substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions will be required by mid-century in order to limit the global average increase in temperature to 1.5 degrees Celsius, and no more than 2 degrees Celsius, to minimize the worst impacts of climate change; and

Whereas, The IPCC's most recent report found that "without immediate and deep emissions reductions across all sectors, limiting global warming to 1.5°C is beyond reach," stating that no new fossil fuel infrastructure must be built; and

Whereas, The Climate Action Council is tasked with developing recommendations to achieve the requirements of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act; and

Whereas, The Climate Action Council's Draft Scoping Plan estimates that the benefits of implementing a robust Scoping Plan to meet the CLCPA will outweigh the costs by over \$90 billion dollars; and

Whereas, Buildings, transportation, and electricity generation account for 73% of New York's statewide greenhouse gas emissions, while the use of fossil fuels for heating and hot water production in the city's building stock accounts for approximately 42% of the City's total GHG emissions; and

Whereas, In 2019, NYC passed the Climate Mobilization Act, featuring Local Law 97, limiting emissions from new and existing buildings over 25,000 square feet, and Local Laws 92 and 94, requiring solar and green roofs for new building construction. Together, these laws are expected to reduce emissions from the

city's largest buildings by 40% by 2030 and 80% by 2050; and

Whereas, Decarbonizing New York City's building stock will require an aggressive push toward large scale building electrification, and widespread equitable access to air source and geothermal heat pumps, and energy efficiency upgrades and retrofits; and

Whereas, The Scoping Plan should include recommendations in support of all newly constructed buildings being all-electric by 2024, full electrification of building stock statewide, and the cessation of marketing and incentives for gas and fuel oil;

Whereas, Over 69% of New York City's power is produced via fossil fuel combustion, and environmental justice communities in New York City bear an inequitable burden of pollution from local "peaker plants," which despite running infrequently, emit almost 2.7 million tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) annually, and constituted almost 5 percent of New York City's CO₂ emissions in 2019; and

Whereas, It is imperative that New York City achieve a 100% zero-emissions electric grid, and to protect public health no new or repowered fossil fuel power plants should be permitted in New York; and

Whereas, Clean energy like offshore wind, rooftop solar, battery storage, transmission upgrades can provide power in New York, drive economic growth, and reduce New York City's reliance on dirty fossil fuel plants; and

Whereas, New York State's Just Transition Working Group estimates that more than 211,000 green jobs could be created by 2030 as a result of climate policies, with New York City poised to become a major hub for the offshore wind industry, and growing local industries in energy efficiency, electrification retrofits and installations, and rooftop solar; and

Whereas, The recommendations of the State's Climate and Just Transition Working Groups and frontline environmental justice leaders must be incorporated into the final recommendations for the Scoping

Plan, including year by year targets for transitioning to zero emissions electricity, widespread transportation electrification, and enhancement of transit, smart growth, and reduced vehicle miles traveled (VMT) through bike and pedestrian infrastructure expansions; and

Whereas, It is imperative that the Governor ensure that these provisions are recommended in the final scoping plan, to protect the health and well-being of New Yorkers and meet the challenge of climate change while building a clean energy economy for all; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls for the Climate Action Council to draft, and the Governor to implement, a final Climate Action Council Scoping Plan that commits to meeting CLCPA targets and bold climate & environmental justice action in New York.

NRC
LS#8777
5/12/2022