I find this proposed legislation totally unacceptable and feel it will cause undue costs, hardships and inconveniences to the people of NYS. Also, you are proposing to eliminate a source of energy that has been proven to reduce air pollution here in New York State.

You only need to look at the decline in air emissions in NYS, particularly NYC, after replacing other energy types with the use of natural gas. We have an abundant supply of natural gas within NYS that should not be eliminated but instead the supply should be increased and made available to residents of NYS. I haven’t researched the statistics lately but I’m sure I am safe to say that we as a state produce less than 10% (I would venture to guess that the actual number would be closer to 5%) of our natural gas requirements. We have the resources and the abundant supply of natural gas beneath our feet to supply the majority of our natural gas requirements if only the state would allow the development of this resource. We currently depend on suppliers outside of NYS to provide natural gas that could be developed within our state. NYS natural gas development would not only provide the natural gas supply we need but would also provide much needed additional revenues locally within the state.

Revenues generated by taxes imposed on the oil and natural gas industry in NYS have been financially beneficial to local government agencies, landowners and school districts along with other local governmental agencies.

This proposal is intended to end the use of natural gas which currently provides safe and clean energy to businesses and residents in the state along with much needed revenues. How can you expect the residents and businesses in NYS to spend untold amounts of capitol on converting their homes and businesses to become completely electric in the time frame and conditions proposed? How do you expect the needed electrical energy in your proposal to be generated? Alterative sources of energy such as wind and solar are not currently dependable or cost effective, i.e. - no wind/no sun. Natural gas has proven to be a safe and clean method of electrical generation and heating yet you propose to eliminate any use of it in the future. You will also need to investigate how this electric power will be distributed. Our electrical grid will need to be vastly improved to accommodate the increased load. Who will pay for this as it could take many years to develop the infrastructure so that electricity can actually be used efficiently? Will you continue to increase our taxes to finance the proposed legislation while making us more dependent on outside sources for our energy needs? That sounds like a losing proposition that will not only be extremely costly but will set us back on providing our energy needs.

I support the use of all types of energy for our use in the future but we need to look at the feasibility of utilizing all these different sources. Many alternative resources need additional time to be developed to a point where they are feasible and efficient. Natural gas should be one of our main energy sources not only because it’s clean and efficient but it is also available right under our feet today. Development of this resource would not only benefit the environment but would provide financial aid to communities that could really use it.

Therefore, for these reasons and many others I do not support the proposed legislation and feel it should not be enacted on. The continued the use of natural gas should be a priority while other alternative energy sources are being developed for use in NYS.

Respectfully, Stephen D. Keyes