

Hello,

I am deeply concerned for the future of New York State and our country as a whole. Reasons for concern are the direction this state and its leadership are going and who is really benefiting from these decisions. While much of this is being sold to the public as "green" and "renewable" and "environmentally friendly", the truth of the matter is much of it is not. NYS is a drop in the bucket compared to global carbon emissions and while I agree there are certain human actions that may be contributing to climate change, NYS is far from the leader of those actions. Why must we go to extremes of trying to achieve such aggressive goals when there are countries like China who are far greater disruptors of the environment and carbon emitters than the people of NYS. Or, what about certain sections of our state? NY City is a far greater energy consumer than the rest of the state. Why must rural portions of the state bear environmental burdens for the benefit of the city? What does the city do for rural portions of the state?

Let's start with wind energy initiatives. Wind development is the BIGGEST scam there is. Insane amounts of government subsidies, taxpayer money, ratepayer money, all those funds WE pay go to developers who are only building these wind projects to reap the plentiful financial benefits this state and NYSERTA is making widely available for. Why is there so much public opposition to these projects? Aside from the peanuts in compensation offered to a select few landowners, the developers are making out BIG with free tax dollars and subsidies. The current grid cannot accommodate the scale of wind and solar projects needed to power this state's electricity demand. How many billions of dollars would need to go towards our grid? What about the inconsistent nature of wind and solar energy sources? We cannot store this energy in the grid, and in winter times when the electricity demand is greatest, these sources produce the least. The carbon footprint created by these projects are huge. Each turbine requires several hundred gallons of lubricants(toxic when leaked to the ground below) and that lubricant needs to be changed once per year. Just how many turbines would it take to power a city like NYC? 5,000? 10,000? More?? Multiply that by the number of gallons per turbine per year and it's a giant amount of fossil fuel needed. Not to mention the hundreds of thousands of tons of concrete needed for each turbine base(factor extracting the concrete components from the ground, burning the fly ash for the cement, mixing, transportation in trucks over the course of how many miles)...how is this "green"? What about the turbines themselves? Where are they manufactured? China? Like most of the other "green" energy solutions. Then transported how many miles to get to the locations then trucked in. How about the massive amounts of rebar and steel? How much energy goes into producing and transporting those? What about all that non-recyclable fiberglass in the blades that only last 10-15 years? And decompose releasing tons of harmful pollutants into the environment? Or the thousands of endangered birds and bats that wind turbines kill each year? Or the asinine idea of placing wind turbines in Lake Erie, the drinking source for 11 million people in the US AND Canada? That has to be the dumbest idea I've ever heard. Who is making these decisions? Again, people in rural areas are suffering and having to bear environmental burdens in areas where we produce a surplus of renewable energy from Niagara Falls. I am strongly opposed to wind energy and its inefficiency, bad for the environment, inconsistency, and how wind developers and those connected to "green" investment firms are getting rich off this idea that wind turbines are the answer. THEY ARE NOT! Oh and solar is just as bad in my opinion, as this stuff won't be recycled and is extremely hard to extract from the ground(oh but that happens in China where we don't care about).

Rather than focusing on "renewable" energy sources, which yes, the wind and the sun are both renewable, however the way we harvest that energy is NOT renewable, why not utilize nuclear energy? Nuclear is truly carbon neutral, extremely cheap(compared to those "renewable" sources), very consistent and extremely efficient(based on surface area for a nuclear plant vs surface area needed for wind/solar). Look at what is happening in Germany – the Germans tried to "go green" with wind and solar and now they realized, these sources cannot meet their demand, and now are forced to buy electricity from Russia. They are forced to buy natural gas from Russia, they are forced to buy coal from Russia. Yes, Germany is firing back up their natural gas and coal power plants because wind and solar just aren't cutting it. In the meantime, their citizens are being hammered by sky-high energy prices and rolling blackouts. Oh, and now Germany won't do anything about Ukraine as they don't want to upset their energy source(Russia). Is this where this state wants us to go??

Natural gas is an excellent source of energy. It is as clean as fossil fuels get. So clean we use it to cook with in our homes, or power garbage trucks. But NYS wants to ban us from using natural gas in our cook stoves in new builds by 2024? And ban us from buying gas appliances by 2030? REALLY??? I am largely against this policy change. But hey, with rising electricity costs when we don't have enough "renewable energy" to meet demand and are forced to buy our electric from our neighbors or pay for far more costly sources, is that what NYS wants is us to pay for much more electricity to cook with or heat our homes??

Gasoline powered cars – maybe this is the government's plan to limit production of gas so that gas prices get so high it "forces" people to buy electric cars. Isn't that what NYS wants is to ban gas powered cars by 2040? Well guess what, that electricity demand we currently can't meet is only going to go up if more people have electric cars. How about the massive amounts of lithium and other rare earth metals needed to be mined to produce all those huge car batteries? Oh yeah, that happens in China where we aren't concerned about the environment. Only Americans should suffer and pay higher prices for goods and services we can have at reasonable prices, because it's better for the environment. That in itself is ironic because much of these "green" initiatives are destroying the environment more than our current energy producing activities.

This state makes me sick and I am embarrassed to live with such poor political leadership. You people who are in power should be ashamed, all these "climate change" policies are doing is making it harder for hard-working people to live in a state that is under one-party totalitarian rule, where we are taxed to death and forced to do things to fit your agendas. But the sad part is most of us who reside in the rest of the state, have little to no say over what you can do to whore out our rural lands, and make it difficult to get by financially. It's too bad our votes don't count. Isn't NYSERTA just a board of hand selected officials, put in place by liberal, left wing government cronies put into place by downstate voters who care not for the rest of the state or what we have to sacrifice for their benefit? Perhaps this is all part of the plan to force civilians from rural areas(can't control people out there) and move them to cities where governments can have more control over them.

In conclusion, I am opposed to every facet of this scoping plan, NYSERTA and every policy put into place or proposed by leftist political leaders and appointed officials, all of whom are getting rich under the veil of "going green".