



The Amherst Chamber of Commerce, which consists of over 1,000 businesses varying in size from start-ups, solopreneurs, and small family businesses to largescale publicly traded companies spanning nearly 80 unique zip codes, is writing to express our concerns regarding the Climate Action Council's draft scoping plan. While The Chamber recognizes and agrees that we need to work towards creating safeguards to protect our environment and provide better health for individuals through improved air quality, the proposed timeline, technology, and lack of funding details present serious concerns for our organization's members.

As a business advocacy organization, our primary charge is to create a more prosperous community for our businesses to flourish. Although New York State has lagged in all significant categories compared to other states regarding starting and growing your business, the CLCPA proposals as-is will only continue to maintain our status as one of the most unfriendly places to do business. Over the past several months, we have heard from our members on many issues regarding the draft scoping plan and encouraged their participation in the public comment period.

To highlight just a few concerns from our members:

- The draft scoping plan lacks any detailed infrastructure upgrades to ensure reliability and sustainability.
- While necessary when trying to achieve any goal, the timeline is extremely aggressive and burdensome for small businesses, especially when still reeling from the effects of a pandemic, rising inflation, and a looming recession.
- Natural Gas has been a cost-effective, reliable source of heat for business and personal use.
- The 2025 gas ban placed on single-family homes and low-rise residential will dramatically increase the cost for home builders while many projects and budgets have already long been in the works.
- A better use of existing natural gas infrastructure to support Renewable natural gas and green hydrogen.

The CLCPA is tasked with the difficult job of ensuring the protection of our environment. Still, it needs to strike a balance to ensure we do not devastate our state's economy by making a unilateral decision that will undoubtedly lead to economic hardships for all businesses and residents of our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a few of our concerns; we will be presenting a more detailed hard copy letter.