

Stephen Cheng

Valley Stream, NY 11581

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Draft Scoping Plan Comments

NYSERDA

17 Columbia Circle

Albany, NY 12203-6399

Dear Madam or Sir:

My name is Stephen Cheng and I am writing and submitting, online and by postal mail, this public comment regarding the Draft Scoping Plan of the Climate Action Council of the State of New York. I am based in Valley Stream, Nassau County, in Long Island.

I urge the Climate Action Council (“Council”) to hold true to the basic legislative purpose of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (“Climate Act”) as it finalizes the final version of the Scoping Plan. New Yorkers for Clean Energy outline three (3) of the basic goals for the Climate Act.

- Reduce GHG emissions by 40% by 2030 below 1990 levels, and achieve *net-zero* emissions by 2050.
- Generate 70% of electricity from renewable resources by 2030, and achieve a *fossil fuel-free* grid by 2040.
- Ensure a *just* and *equitable* transition, including dedicating 35% of the benefits of clean energy investments to Disadvantaged Communities, with the goal of 40%.

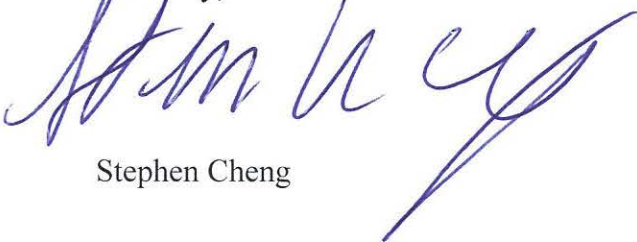
These aims are crucial if New York State is to help avoid the global climate catastrophe. Sidestepping such a disaster also entails finding genuine solutions and rejecting counterproductive and destructive, which is to say false, ones such as reliance upon biomass and biofuels, natural gas, waste incineration, and supposedly “green” hydrogen.

Instead, the Final Scoping Plan of New York State must, as the Long Island Progressive Coalition aptly notes, “focus on renewable zero-emission technologies that have been proven to work, like solar and wind.” Furthermore, the plan must account for the collective needs of indigenous communities such as the Shinnecock, Unkechaug, Setalcott, Matinecock, and Montaukett. For instance, the Shinnecock Kelp Farmers are developing seaweed-based carbon sequestration techniques which can prove innovative and crucial for reversing the climate crisis.

While keeping in mind all the above for a transition to a renewable green economy, New York State also needs a Worker and Community Assurance Fund which will provide a social safety net for workers employed in industries that have heavily relied upon usage of fossil fuels.

In such a spirit, please compose a scoping plan which will realize the Climate Act's purpose as well as meet social, environmental, cultural, and ecological needs.

Sincerely,



Stephen Cheng

*[the text of this letter references Long Island Progressive Coalition talking points]*