

TOWN OF KIRKWOOD

Town Board

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June 3, 2022

Draft Scoping Plan Comments
NYSERDA
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203

RE: New York State Climate Action Council Draft Scoping Plan – Comments

To Whom It May Concern:

The following is the Town of Kirkwood's response to the proposed NYS Climate Action Council Draft Scoping Plan, released in December 2021. The stated goals to reduce greenhouse gases and in the process effect a positive result on climate change are admirable, however the process the plan proposes places an unaffordable and unrealistic burden on the residents of the Town of Kirkwood.

Many of the concepts proposed simply do not work for a small upstate town. For instance, the cost to convert home heating systems to electric is simply beyond the means of a large portion of the taxpayers in Kirkwood. Moreover, as a recent snowstorm showed, large areas of Kirkwood were without power for nearly five days. Many people, myself included, relied on a gas generator to power our oil burning furnaces to save us from the cold and the damages that would be caused by the cold.

It should also be noted that our electric power supplier, NYSEG, does not have the capacity for development in the Kirkwood area. Recently, Ball Container, was poised to build a facility in Kirkwood with the prospect of 600 jobs. Their process required electric power that NYSEG was unable to supply. That plant is now being built in Scranton Pennsylvania.

While the Town of Kirkwood supports the transition to electrical devices it does not support the mandating of this change. A more reasonable approach is to develop a plan that incentivizes and enables upstate and rural residents of New York to make these changes if they decide it is in their best interest to do so.

In addition, the placing of large-scale solar wind and battery storage facilities, which by their very nature, need to be built on rural properties thus making thousands of acres of farmland unusable, unsightly, and producing very little tax benefits to the hosting municipality is a burden wholly placed on upstate New York.

The cost of this plan is outlandish. Spending over \$500 billion dollars, which in the end will be well in excess of that number, is insanity. Where will this money come from, certainly not from the existing New York State budget. The idea that oil companies will foot the bill, basically a carbon tax, only means that the cost will be passed on to consumers which is a tax that my residents and all upstate residents can ill afford.

It also appears that a good portion of the benefits that the Scoping Plan refers to flow to other states and not to New York taxpayers. Also, the \$40 billion health benefit from walking and cycling from Kirkwood's point of view is just not feasible. Our "Main Street", US Route 11, has little or no shoulders. When I asked the NYS Department of Transportation when we could expect the road to be upgraded so cycling and walking could be safe I was told that there are no plans to upgrade the road. That information rules out Kirkwood residents from the health benefits this plan uses to justify the cost.

To summarize:

We support the objective of transitioning from fossil fuel to electric heating. However, we do not support the mandating of that change. That decision should be up to the homeowner or building owner. As these change overs could be very costly there should be substantial monetary incentives to encourage the changing of the existing heating systems.

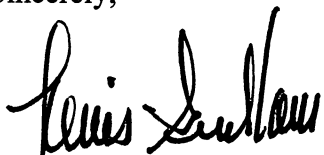
The Legislature should leave the decision of whether the individual changes to heat pumps, electric heating or battery-operated equipment to the individual who knows what will work best for their situation and should not be told they have to purchase.

In addition, the threat of carbon taxes, mileage taxes, taxes on propane, natural gas or home heating oil are a threat on the rural, suburban way of life that our residents enjoy and don't want to lose.

There needs to be much more pragmatic and thoughtful approach to the climate problem that includes people from areas of the state that can least afford the costs that will be incurred from the proposals advanced.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss the Town of Kirkwood's issues with climate change and how we could participate on a more equitable basis.

Sincerely,



LEWIS GRUBHAM
Supervisor

The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for the success of any business and for the protection of the interests of all parties involved.

In the second part, the author discusses the various methods used to collect and analyze data. It highlights the importance of using reliable sources and the need for a systematic approach to data collection and analysis.

The third part of the document focuses on the importance of communication in the business world. It discusses the various ways in which information can be shared and the need for clear and concise communication.

In the fourth part, the author discusses the importance of ethics in the business world. It emphasizes that ethical behavior is not only the right thing to do but also the best way to ensure long-term success.

The final part of the document discusses the importance of innovation and creativity in the business world. It encourages readers to think outside the box and to seek out new and innovative ways to solve problems.

[Handwritten Signature]
Name of the author or official