**UCG Public Hearings Statement**

I am making this statement on behalf of the Utility Consultation Group, or the UCG, representing New York’s major electric and gas utilities. The UCG was formed in December, 2020 to provide expertise to the Climate Action Council and be a resource for its Advisory Panels.

Our companies operate the complex systems that deliver energy our customers need at home and in their businesses. *We are committed to using our significant experience to assist the State in achieving its emissions reduction goals*.

Given the complexity of energy systems, and the transformation required to meet the State’s goals, *it is imperative that the State’s focus be on the continued provision of safe and reliable energy to our customers*.

To achieve deep decarbonization while ensuring reliable service requires optimization of energy delivery systems, and reliance on a multitude of existing and future energy resources. *We recommend keeping all energy options on the table at this early stage of the decarbonization process.*

Electrifying portions of our energy system that rely on other sources of energy will require additional infrastructure to meet the demands of a cleaner, larger electric network. W*e should look at the entirety of the energy system to ensure the most cost-effective approach to achievement of CLCPA goals.*

The gas distribution system must continue to serve customers safely and reliably. In the future that system can facilitate energy decarbonization by flowing low- and no-carbon energy like renewable natural gas and hydrogen. *We support robust research initiatives to develop these and other necessary technologies*, such as electric storage, carbon capture and geothermal systems.

With our proven track record of emissions reductions and meeting energy delivery needs, *we are committed to helping the State meet its climate goals while together ensuring a reliable, safe, cost-effective, clean energy future for our customers.*