

Hi, my name is Jess Mullen. I live part-time in Saranac Lake. Thanks so much for all of your attention on this– we really appreciate you making the trek up here. First, I'd like to point out that there's been a lot of misinformation about this law, and up here, people have been incorrectly told they won't be able to use wood burning stoves for heat. That is not the case, so I hope that the state can use the same aggressive PR tactics that the fossil fuel lobby is using, to get out the facts instead of fiction.

Secondly, I'd like to point out that The Adirondack Park doesn't have natural gas, because this region is considered pristine wilderness, and gas infrastructure harms the environment. So we're lucky, but much of the state isn't. Passing the CLCPA was the first step NY needed to catch up with climate science, and forge a path that's economically stimulating VS one that's stale and goes against what leading climate scientists and global panels keep telling us. And so,

I Support the Draft Scoping Plan's recommendations to

- Immediately end State and utility marketing of fossil gas, and ramp up marketing and incentives for air-source and ground-source heat pumps.
- Deny new gas infrastructure permits, which would only increase GHG emissions and create more stranded assets.
- Align state laws governing utility service with the Climate Act, supporting the transition to equitable, energy-efficient electrification.

I Support the Scoping Plan's focus on efficient electrification as the appropriate pathway to eliminating emissions from buildings, not false solutions like renewable natural gas (RNG) and hydrogen. RNG contributes to air pollution and cannot be produced in sufficient quantities in New York to replace fossil fuels. The production of hydrogen is polluting, and its distribution would require costly new pipeline infrastructure to deliver to buildings. Both RNG and hydrogen are being promoted by the fossil fuel industry in an effort to prolong use of fossil fuels and related infrastructure.

I support the Development of a plan for a managed and equitable transition to clean heating and cooling systems that maintains affordable, safe, and reliable utility service and protects low- and moderate-income households from an undue

burden in the transition. And so I Urge the Climate Action Council to include in the Scoping Plan the Gas Transition and Affordability Act (S.8198) to begin this process.

Thank you for your time.

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