From: Roderick Dressel
To: erda.sm.scopingplan
Subject: Climate Action Council Draft Scoping Plan
Date: Thursday, May 26, 2022 8:10:04 PM

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Climate Action Council Draft Scoping Plan,

Overall Comments:

- Agriculture and forestry are the few industries that can provide carbon sequestration benefits for all industries to reach net zero and further Agriculture accounts for just 6 % of New York State Greenhouse gas emissions.
- Important for the state to support the rich bioeconomy that exists in upstate New York including wood products, and bioenergy sources such as wood, biogas, and ethanol that can help transition the state from fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy.
- Policy decision must be supported by science and availability of technology. Electrification of large farm equipment is not readily available in the market or is the technology widely accepted due to current limitations of battery technology and cost constraints.
- Do not support blanket adoption of the Federal Agriculture Resilience Act, rather a thoughtful approach and specific approach that recognizes the uniqueness of New York State agriculture industry, including incorporation of all sized farms including Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations.
- Oppose efforts to ban synthetic fertilizers. New York agriculture must continue to employ strategies to reduce excess nutrients, however, fertilizers are an important component to successful crop yields.
- Any state policy should not prefer one cropping method over the other but rather address individual strategies in reducing GHG emissions. Both conventional and organic farming can adopt strategies to reduce GHG emissions on farm.
- Continued concerns with the ambitious goals to transition to electric vehicles, specifically medium- and heavy-duty trucks. Lack of charging infrastructure, increased costs, and dependability all remain concern when hauling perishable agricultural commodities, including livestock.

Agriculture and Forestry Sector:

- Important to recognize the value of minimizing the importation of goods from outside of the state by ensuring a robust agriculture and forestry sector in New York State.
- Primary reductions for the agriculture sector are of methane and nitrous oxide and the potential of carbon capture through the sequestration of carbon by plants and soils.
- Key areas for agricultural emissions reductions are livestock management, soil health, nutrient management, agroforestry, and a climate-focused bioeconomy.
- Livestock emissions account for 92 percent agricultural emissions primarily from methane and nitrous oxide. State policies and investments must support systems specifically planed and designed for each farm. Strategies include cover and flare systems, anaerobic digester systems, composting and other innovative systems that collect, capture, and destroy methane from manure storages or that prevent the excess production of methane. Existing programs and planning tools through the Department of Agriculture and Markets and Soil and Water Conservation Districts can further the adoption of these strategies but must be provided additional resources.
- Support strategies that are incentive-based rather than regulatory mandates.
- All strategies must be widely available and address equity considerations in the agricultural sector.

Sincerely,

Roderick Dressel
271 State Route 208
New Paltz, NY 12561
rodjr@dresselfarms.com