From: Robert Kladke
To: erda.sm.scopingplan
Subject: New Yorkers Need Affordable, Reliable Energy
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Dear NYSERDA Council,

I am writing to share my concerns with the Climate Action Council's proposed Scoping Plan. As an employer and ratepayer, I understand we must make changes to safeguard our environment. However, as written, the Plan would significantly harm upstate New York.

Banning natural gas - a sustainable, low-carbon fuel - would force New Yorkers off the primary resource used to heat their homes and other daily activities. The cost of retrofitting upstate New York for a gas-free future would be astronomical. New York should also not turn its back on the existing and resilient underground natural gas infrastructure to ensure energy delivery is reliable even in bad weather.

A carbon pricing system or an emissions cap would add such a significant cost increase to businesses that many would head for the exits, causing economic damage without making any meaningful changes to those businesses' emissions.

Enacting an Extended Producer Responsibility system would make manufacturing more expensive and also increase the cost of consumer goods.

Energy in New York needs to remain reliable and affordable. But, if this plan is adopted, New York will spend a fortune to electrify every piece of our state without being prepared to produce that electric capacity as planned. In the process, the state would shun a fuel source that is cheap, safe, dependable, plentiful, and low-emission.

While much of the Council's Plan is praiseworthy, there are pieces of the plan that would devastate our economy. We must strike the right balance between protecting our planet and safeguarding our economy.

Please remove these harmful elements of the Draft Scoping Plan so that New York can move toward a sustainable future without energy becoming more expensive or less reliable.

Sincerely,

Robert Kladke
969 Henry St
Irving, NY 14081
bob@blackhatchimney.com