From: arlenenyc@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Arlene Zuckerman
To: erda.sm.scopingplan
Subject: An Equitable Transition to Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resiliency
Date: Friday, June 10, 2022 4:11:16 PM

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Dear New York Climate Action Council,

I'm writing to comment on the Draft Scoping Plan as it relates to shaping a safe and healthy future for New York State. The points I will make will mainly address energy, workforce development, transportation, and climate resiliency.

First, renewable energy is the future of our state, and I appreciate the Draft Scoping Plan's recommendations to accelerate the deployment of large-scale renewable energy systems. Such a recommendation must be accompanied by significant investment and technical support for Disadvantaged Communities to develop energy storage deployment and microgrids to reduce grid strain, and increase resiliency and affordability. Also, I support strategies to facilitate the retirement of all fossil fuel-fired generation facilities and recommend the Council take the additional step of placing a moratorium on the permitting of new fossil fuel plants. New York's energy future must be renewable!

Workforce development is key. I support the Draft proposal to invest in workforce development to expand training to new clean energy workers and adjacent industries and prioritize disadvantaged communities and low-income residents for job training and placement by community to employment pipelines and on-the-job training investments. Additionally, I support growing local supply chains and creating jobs in clean energy businesses that serve Disadvantaged Communities, as well as providing dedicated support to people of color- and women-owned enterprises to innovate and actively participate in the electrification of the buildings sector.

Next, on transportation, I support the Draft recommendations regarding regulatory and incentive-based mechanisms to accelerate light duty Zero-Emission Vehicle adoption. This includes the adoption of California's Advanced Clean Cars 2 Regulations (which are expected to require 100% light-duty ZEV sales by 2035). To support the adoption of ZEVs, the state must reduce barriers to both sales and charging and fueling infrastructure through increased awareness and investments, changing the design of utility rates, and setting state fleet procurement targets. This process should also support a rapid transition to medium- and heavy-duty ZEVs, prioritizing deployment in communities overburdened with air pollution.

Lastly, I support the Draft's call to enhance the resilience of living systems and communities, including addressing risks to ecosystems and biodiversity, enhancing resilience and adaptation of the agricultural sector, and protecting the ability of forests to serve as essential carbon sequesters. Specifically, I support the recommendations proposed in Appendix H of the Draft Plan to appoint a chief state resilience officer and create a resilient infrastructure fund, incentivize the use of green infrastructure, and improve local wildlife and aquatic connectivity through dam removals and right-sizing road-stream crossing infrastructure. I strongly urge the Council to more fully address climate resiliency in the Final Scoping Plan through additional specific recommendations; evaluation of New York State's current resiliency status and policies; and meaningful consultation with agencies, communities already facing climate impacts, and nongovernmental entities experienced in on-the-ground resilience and adaptation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Scoping Plan.

Sincerely,
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