From: Sohum Aggarwal
To: erda.sm.scopingplan
Subject: Cosponsor All Renewable Heat Now Bills
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Dear Draft Scoping Plan Comments Climate Action Council,

We are in a critical stage of the climate crisis driven by continued greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, which we must start reducing dramatically in order to avert the worst effects of climate change. At the very least, we must stop the expansion of fossil fuels.

Buildings account for a third of New York's GHG emissions, with space and water heating being the largest contributors. It is widely accepted that phasing out the use of on-site fossil fuels such as heating oil and methane gas and shifting to electricity as the sole energy source for buildings, while simultaneously pursuing weatherization, energy efficiency, and improved building codes, is the only feasible path to decarbonizing building operations. Once electrified, the GHG emissions associated with buildings will decline as more distributed and centralized carbon-free sources of electricity are added to the grid.

In addition to exacerbating the climate crisis, on-site use of fossil fuels in buildings brings deadly pollution into our homes and communities, and eliminating this pollution source would yield dramatic benefits to public health and considerable reduction in healthcare cost. In New York state, pollution from burning oil and gas in buildings accounts for nearly 2000 deaths and $22 billion in healthcare costs annually.

The Renewable Heat Now package of bills for a just and affordable transition of our buildings from fossil fuels is timely, prudent, and necessary, and I urge you to co-sponsor all of the following five bills in it.

ALL-ELECTRIC BUILDING ACT, S6843B|A8431A
Sponsors: Senator Kavanagh and Assemblymember Gallagher

Requires new buildings to have all-electric space and water heating and appliances, except where infeasible technologically. Building permits for new buildings with fossil fuel systems cannot be issued on or after January 1, 2024. Requires state agencies to identify policies to ensure affordable electricity for all-electric buildings.

GAS TRANSITION AND AFFORDABLE ENERGY ACT, S8198|A9329
Sponsors: Senator Krueger, Senator May and Assemblymember Fahy

Requires the Public Service Commission to develop and for utilities to implement a plan for an orderly and equitable transition from gas utilities to renewable heating, cooking, and hot water services. Necessary to stop gas expansion and achieve the state's climate mandates.

ADVANCED BUILDING, APPLIANCE AND EQUIPMENT STANDARDS ACT, S7176|A8143
Sponsors: Senator Parker and Assemblymember Fahy

Saves consumers over a billion dollars by updating appliance efficiency standards to reduce energy use. Authorizes the NYS Codes Council to incorporate greenhouse gas emissions reduction standards into building codes.

FOSSIL-FREE HEATING TAX CREDIT AND SALES TAX EXEMPTION, S3864|A7493 & S642A|A8147
Sponsors: Senator Kennedy, Senator Sanders, Assemblymember Rivera

Bills to enact a tax credit for geothermal heat pump systems and exempt the sale of geothermal heat pump systems from sales tax. Necessary to incentivize the most efficient systems for heating and bring heat pump manufacturing and workforce to scale.

If you have already cosponsored some of these bills, I thank you for your climate leadership. Please consider co-sponsoring the entire package because these bills are designed to work together for a smooth permanent electrification and eventual decarbonization of New York's building sector.

Regards,
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