Osgood, Sarah (NYSERDA)

From: Adrienne Wald <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 3:01 PM
To: erda.sm.scopingplan
Subject: We Can. We Must. Together

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Dear Chairs Seggos and Harris, and Members of the New York State Climate Action Council -

As a Catskill Mountainkeeper supporter, I'm writing to impress three main messages on you as you consider the draft Scoping Plan for the CLCPA: we can; we must; together.

We Can: New York State has the tools and solutions needed to take on the climate crisis while addressing issues of climate justice. The CAC's draft scoping plan is a strong starting point, and I support much of the rapid electrification scenario (scenario #3). Rapid electrification is based on known solutions and leaves the door open for future innovation. As we move down this path, New York must keep our focus on solutions that maximize greenhouse gas pollution and air pollution reductions while minimizing negative impacts. Further, we must eschew false solutions--those that would further tie us to carbon-emitting power production and a dirty and dangerous fossil fuel culture that we must leave in the past. Further, this is a critical moment to rethink how New York State delivers services--the state is going to have to simultaneously drive action at the community, regional, and state levels.

We must: The debate about climate change is over--we're experiencing the devastating impacts of the climate crisis, and it's hitting Black, Brown, Indigenous, and low-income communities first and hardest. Given that, as the Scoping Plan draft states, the cost of inaction outweighs the cost of action by more than $90 billion, it would be foolish not to seize the opportunities that fighting this crisis will present: new jobs, cleaner air and water, healthier communities, and a more just and equitable future. But we'll only realize these benefits if we take strong action. So we must act.

Together: As we fight the crisis, we all need to commit to doing so together. There should be no sacrifice zones, no communities left behind. We must move away from typical government practices and create new and more equitable ways to achieve our climate goals and mandates. Communities already know and have identified what they need in the way of solutions; our Government needs to listen and to follow.To emerge from this crisis together, New York State must fully fund solutions, while ensuring that the costs don't fall on low income, Black, Brown, or Indigenous communities. In addition to fully funding the plan, we need to ensure that at least 40% of the funding is invested in Disadvantaged Communities, as directed by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

As a nurse and healthcare educator, I strongly urge you to protect the public health of New Yorkers by ensuring environmental protections that incorporate principles of environmental justice. Thank you for considering these comments.

Yours sincerely,
Dr. Adrienne Wald EdD, MBA, RN, MCHES, CNE

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