From: jayvan1178@grassrootsmessages.com
To: erda.sm.scopingplan
Subject: Please Consider Electrification's Impact
Date: Wednesday, February 23, 2022 4:51:43 PM

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As a New York resident and business owner, I am writing to express my concerns regarding the New York Climate Action Council's Draft Scoping Plan. The Plan will have a significant impact on New York residences and businesses, including the elimination of energy choice and a likely increase in overall energy costs. Mandating that building codes will ban fossil fuel heat and hot water appliances in new residential construction by 2024 is a threat to not only my business but to the availability of cheap reliable energy for millions of New Yorkers. While I strongly support climate action and climate justice, this proposal jeopardizes my business, my employees' livelihoods, and consumers' ability to choose affordable, reliable heating options. I support a clean environment, but we cannot jeopardize reliability and safety or act hastily. The State should not be able to impose undue cost burdens on consumers, residents, and business policy, especially since an in-depth cost analysis of the objectives outlined in this plan has not been done. The plan does not consider the $20,000 to $50,000 it will cost consumers to electrify their homes, nor does it consider direct cost, opportunity cost, or return on investment. Most businesses will feel multiple impacts from this plan which emphasizes incentives rather than mandates to avoid emissions and economic leakage. We are already seeing the cost of electricity rise. Expensive and unreliable power will disproportionately affect elderly and lower-income New Yorkers. Cold and powerless days during winter will be dangerous to New York's most vulnerable populations without a reliable heating source. Additionally, the risk of economic leakage is very real. Right now, the cost of the CLCPA will be a massive job loss. New York should reach these state goals by using assets and infrastructure that already exist as well as an "all of the above" approach, which includes natural gas, renewable natural gas, solar, wind, nuclear and emerging technologies, rather than taking fuels away. Natural Gas delivers over four times more energy during peak demand than electricity, and natural gas is storm resistant, allowing for 99.9% reliability in storm events. I ask you to please strongly consider an alternative proposal that strives to give consumers options. Competition is imperative to protect consumers while driving innovation, ingenuity, and progress. Please contact me or Karen Arpino (Karen@nehpba.org) with the Northeast Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association, our trade association, if you have any questions. Thank you. Sincerely, Jay Vangraafeiland