From: Heather Hollister Kaese
To: erda.sm.scopingplan
Subject: Public Comment on the Draft Scoping Plan issued by the NYS Climate Action Council
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TO: NYSERDA

NYSERDA
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203

RE: Public Comment on the Draft Scoping Plan issued by the NYS Climate Action Council

Dear NYSERDA

Please accept these comments on the Draft Scoping Plan issued by the NYS Climate Action Council.

The plan needs short term goals set for 2 years and four years after the final plan. Long-term goals for 2030 and 2050 are important, but we need to act immediately.

The New York State Power Authority should be expanded to develop wind power, on land and offshore, and solar farms in New York.

The plan should set a goal of rooftop solar on 2 million homes and businesses in New York and provide stronger financial incentives.

The plan needs stronger financial support programs for working class New Yorkers to electrify their homes and businesses.

The plan needs programs for “variable pricing and parking policies,” or “higher registration fees” for carbon intensive vehicles, mileage-based user fees, and other special assessments to finance transportation sector improvements. There clearly needs to be disincentives for low mileage vehicles.

The plan needs better incentives to increase the number ZEVs purchased in New York, but these incentives should be higher. Beyond a higher direct rebate, there should be a sales tax waiver for all ZEVs purchased by New York State residents. New York State will not meet it climate change goals unless we can make ZEVs affordable for working families across the state.

We need new programs in New York for forever wild easements on millions of acres of privately owned forests to keep these forests intact and growing trees that will maximize long-term carbon storage. The plan needs a literature review of peer review articles about long-term carbon storage to help formulate new forest policies.

The State of New York needs to invest actively in land acquisition to protect intact forests and in programs for to reforest two million acres in the state.

The "forestry" section needs to include a bibliography of scientific peer review papers that detail the role of mature and old growth forests in long-term carbon storage.

New York's climate change plan needs to set a goal to help private forestland owners protect 5 million acres in forever wild easements managed for long-term carbon storage.

New York's climate change plan needs programs that provide incentives for landowners to manage their lands for long-term carbon storage.

New York needs to prioritize incentives for forest management where harvested trees are used for wood products that provide long-term carbon storage.

The NYSCAC needs to draft new statutory language to amend state laws to require that climate change impacts must be evaluated and considered by state agencies in their work. The NYS APA and DEC must consider carbon pollution when these agencies review land use and development on the state's private and public lands.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

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