From: mailagent@thesoftedge.com on behalf of mrswilvert@hotmail.com
To: erda.sm.scopingplan
Subject: Draft Scoping Plan Comments - I Don"t Want to Switch My Home Heating System
Date: Wednesday, July 6, 2022 2:36:16 PM

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Dear NYSERDA:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Climate Action Council's Draft Scoping Plan. As a New Yorker, I support the goals of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, but I have serious concerns about several of the Draft Scoping Plan's recommendations. Statewide heating electrification could inadvertently lead to higher home energy costs, more frequent wintertime power outages, and greater dependence on fossil gas to support increasing demand for electricity.

Unlike electric heat pumps, Bioheat fuel offers an immediate solution for decarbonizing the heating sector. Research shows higher blends of Bioheat fuel significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, heating costs and fossil fuel consumption. Local heating fuel providers are already delivering blends up to 50% biodiesel (B50), which can reduce carbon emissions by 40%, and have committed to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 using higher blends that require only minor adjustments to existing heating systems - not costly replacements. Bioheat fuel also supports New York farms and restaurants as biodiesel comes from renewable sources like soybeans and used cooking oil.

I am glad to see the Draft Scoping Plan supports the use of Bioheat fuel in New York per state law. As of this July, all heating oil sold in New York State contains at least 5% biodiesel, increasing to 20% (B20) in 2030. Local heating fuel providers want the law to go further and support raising it to a 50% blend, and to a net-zero fuel by 2050. They are helping consumers reduce their carbon footprint at no added cost by using Bioheat fuel. Bioheat fuel offers an immediate decarbonization solution for 1.4 million oil-heated homes statewide; so why should we pay tens of thousands of dollars on electric heat pumps that will increase our state's dependence on fossil gas? The answer is that we shouldn't, and we won't. We already have a better solution in renewable Bioheat fuel.

I ask that you please take these comments into consideration when formulating the Final Scoping Plan. Please take steps to encourage more widespread adoption of low-carbon liquid fuels, and please reject the Draft Scoping Plan's recommendation that existing buildings be retrofitted with electric heat pumps. Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Scoping Plan. I appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Roberta Ippolito
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