

Climate Action Council Meeting – Vote on Scoping Plan Statement by Commissioner Roberta Reardon

New York State Department of Labor

Monday, December 19, 2022

- I am honored to be surrounded by colleagues who have taken the time to craft a thoughtful framework to ensure New York State achieves critical benchmarks in our efforts to address climate change.
- We've traveled statewide and gone to great lengths to truly understand the concerns of different communities and stakeholders on this issue.
- This Council has asked the hard questions, vigorously debated, and consulted with experts. We have delved into every page and detail of the plan we're voting on today. No aspect of this work was easy but, in my view, it was certainly fulfilling and necessary.
- I'd like to acknowledge Governor Kathy Hochul, who continues to take actions that put New York State on the path to achieving its bold climate agenda and a move toward a more environmentally friendly future.
- I would like to personally thank and applaud our Council Co-chairs, NYSERDA President and C-E-O Doreen Harris and DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos. What this Council has accomplished is the direct result of your wisdom and dedication. The importance and impact of your leadership cannot be overstated. As a Co-Chair of the Just Transition Working Group, I want to add a special word of thanks to Co-Chair Harris. It was a pleasure collaborating with you, and the entire working group, to make sure our strategies encourage and uphold the principles of a truly "Just Transition."

- I would also like to give special recognition to my good friend, New York State AFL-CIO President Mario Cilento. Mario was a late addition to the Council, but he has gone above and beyond to advocate for issues that are important to New Yorkers, and ensure that labor had a seat at the table. The Council has certainly made it a priority to ensure that unions, environmentalists, and other stakeholders had a voice in these matters. I commend my fellow council members for ensuring that this process was open and inclusive.
- I would also like to thank the various agency staff that supported and guided our work. They are all consummate professionals. We owe them a debt of gratitude for keeping us on track and focused throughout this transparent process. We know we were an active and challenging group.
- A sincere thank you to my own staff at the DOL. Balancing the demands of this work with their other responsibilities over the past two years has never been easy, but we know what's at stake. The day-to-day challenges were well worth the outcome of reaching this important milestone.
- This transition won't be instant, but it will be permanent, which is why we were so meticulous in examining details from every angle because this is such an important chapter in New York State history. This transition is as revolutionary as when electricity was first harnessed, it will completely change our lives while also protecting our precious planet.
- We must now make good on the aspirations and strategies laid out in this plan. The DOL will continue to support the green workforce of the future, disadvantaged communities who will be lifted up in the green economy, and the business community at large.
- As we mark this day together, we signal to the world that New York State is putting words into action.