

**TO:** Senator Krueger, Senator Harckham, Senator Parker, and members of the Senate Finance Committee, Environmental Conservation, and Energy Committees

**FROM:** Elena Weissmann, Vote Solar, elena@votesolar.org

**RE:** CLCPA final Scoping Plan

**DATE:** January 13, 2023

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My name is Elena Weissmann, and I am the Northeast Regional Director at Vote Solar. Vote Solar is a national nonprofit organization that works at the state level to advance and equitable clean energy future. We are also a member of NY Renews, a coalition of over 320 organizations representing hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers organizing for a just and equitable transition away from fossil fuels and toward our clean energy future. Thank you for convening this hearing and for the opportunity to submit testimony as part of the Scoping Plan hearing.

The Scoping Plan is the culmination of years of work by the Climate Action Council, and the advocates and everyday New Yorkers whose demands and experiences informed their efforts. Its bold ambitions represent a major step forward for our state and an example for the nation to follow. While the final Scoping Plan includes important strategies for reaching our emissions reduction goals and prioritizing Disadvantaged Communities in the transition, there's still much more work to do on climate justice and energy equity. Solar power has a key role to play in propelling us toward our state's ambitious climate goals and the clean energy future that we know we need. Policymakers must now invest heavily in Disadvantaged Communities to ensure countable benefits come and stay with people who have been systematically denied them. The state must invest in solar beyond business incentives to ensure that its potential as a tool for social justice and equity can be fulfilled. **It will be impossible for New York to actualize the nation-leading promises of the Scoping Plan without significant investments and accompanying legislation from the State.**

The NY Renews coalition is not resting after a long, hard fight to successfully pass the Climate Act. We must now turn to our recently developed Climate, Jobs & Justice Package (CJJP). The bills in the CJJP will help us raise the money the State needs to enact a just transition replete with family-sustaining jobs, direct funds to Disadvantaged Communities, and build affordable renewable energy for all New Yorkers. **We urge you to support the CJJP and support the inclusion of a \$10 billion budgetary investment for 2023-2024 to jump-start our just transition to a clean energy economy. Without these steps, the Scoping Plan will remain a wish list.**

With the climate crisis already upon us, inaction is not an option. We have the proven tools to address it and the Scoping Plan gives us a plan to get there without relying on false solutions. Now we need to make the plan a reality by fully funding it through the State Budget and the CJJP.