

**New York State Senate Committees on Finance, Environmental Conservation, and Energy and Telecommunications**

**Hearing on legislative and budgetary actions necessary to implement the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act and the Climate Action Council Final Scoping Plan**

**Testimony of the Western New York Association of Plumbing & Mechanical Contractors**

Achievement of the goals of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) and the work of the Climate Action Council (CAC) is vital to all New Yorkers and the businesses in this state. Although the CAC's efforts in developing the scoping plan were extensive, the voices from key industries directly impacted by the recommendations, such as construction, were not heard. Furthermore, general public awareness of a plan that will have such wide-ranging impacts on all New Yorkers is severely lacking.

A primary concern with the plan is lack of consideration for a responsible energy transition. With a one-size-fits-all approach that does not account for varying climate and economic conditions across the state, ignores existing clean energy sources that can be a bridge to a decarbonized future, and incomplete information on costs to individuals and businesses, the plan can make our path to the goals of the CLCPA more painful than necessary. The plan also fails to adequately address challenges such as power system reliability and supply chain issues.

Any legislative or budgetary action to implement the final scoping plan recommendations should move forward only after input is sought from groups underrepresented in the development of the plan, and more is done to effectively engage the public and increase awareness. At a minimum, this outreach should address how to:

- Implement proposals across the state without unduly burdening residents across varying climates, economic conditions, and population densities.
- Leverage energy sources such as natural gas to move towards decarbonization goals incrementally and without reliance on a single or unproven energy source. Current energy code requirements and modern natural gas appliances result in highly energy efficient buildings.
- Clearly identify implementation costs and how they will be paid for. Conservative cost estimates for existing residential buildings converting to all-electric and for new homes being built all-electric average \$15,000 per house. This will be a difficult cost for most New Yorkers to bear and adds to our housing affordability crisis.
- Ensure that increased demand on the power grid will not lead to decreased reliability. Residents and businesses, especially those upstate, rely on other energy sources when there are weather-related or other power disruptions. This is especially true in cold weather events where an inability to heat a home with other energy sources could be life threatening or could cause damage to the house. Requiring residents and businesses to rely solely on electric as an energy source should only happen after the energy grid is proven to be able to reliably support this demand.
- Increase availability of essential electrical construction materials. Post-pandemic shortages of electrical components continues to affect the construction industry and show no signs of improving. Increased electrification will lead to greater demand for these materials and equipment at a time when the wait for some components can already be over a year.

Inquiries on this testimony can be submitted to Joe Benedict at [jbenedict@conexbuff.com](mailto:jbenedict@conexbuff.com) or 716-874-3435.