



Testimony of Elizabeth Yeampierre
Executive Director of UPROSE
Hearing on The Climate and Community Investment Act
S.4264A (Parker, et al.)
Tuesday, April 13th, 2021

Good morning, My name is Elizabeth Yeampierre, the Executive Director of UPROSE, Co-Chair of the national Climate Justice Alliance, and Steering Committee member of New York Renews. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

In June 2019, after years of grassroots organizing by NY Renews, the New York State Legislature passed the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), the nation's most progressive climate justice legislation to reduce emissions, develop renewable energy, create thousands of well-paying jobs, and center equity. Today I am here to share our longtime support for The Climate and Community Investment Act- a crucial step to meeting the state's climate mandates.

Founded in 1966, UPROSE is Brooklyn's oldest Latino community-based organization. UPROSE is an intergenerational, multiracial, and women of color-led organization working at the intersection of racial justice and climate change through advocacy, community engagement, youth leadership, and cultural artistic expression. UPROSE is located in Sunset Park, Brooklyn- a frontline environmental justice community of over 130,000.

In the era of COVID-19 and climate change, Black, brown and Indigenous communities have been the most adversely impacted by the public health and economic crisis, and it is these same communities who suffer first and worst from recurrent extreme weather disasters. For generations, BIPOC communities have been sacrifice zones and have lived with the legacy of harm caused by just a handful of companies.

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New York state's largest corporate polluters have spent tens of millions of dollars on campaign and lobbying efforts that allow them to act with impunity- this system must stop. The Climate and Community Investment Act (CCIA) will create the true accountability and transparency needed to achieve a Just Transition. CCIA would raise up to \$15 billion per year over the first 10 years, to be used to create well-paying, green jobs, invest in frontline communities, and build a renewable economy for New York State.

A small number of companies are responsible for the vast majority of pollution emissions disparately impacting frontline BIPOC communities- these corporate polluters must be held accountable for their hand in perpetuating racial injustices and disparities. It is time to finally center equity in governance- the CCIA is the key to putting the frontline communities most impacted by multiple crises at the forefront of the solutions.

I would like to thank you for holding this hearing and for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

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