**Public Hearing Statement – Binghamton**

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**National Grid**

Good afternoon, my name is Anntonette Alberti and I lead the Customer Energy Management Growth Team for National Grid. I’m here on behalf of National Grid to reaffirm our commitment to a decarbonized energy economy and to tell you **There Is A Better Way.**

Solving climate change requires sweeping emissions reductions across all sectors – and **achieving meaningful decarbonization will require every tool in the toolbox and a coordinated gas and electric strategy.**

**Any pathway must start with Energy Efficiency and Weatherization –** which can deliver fully one-third of needed emissions reductions from heating. Wider adoption of measures to better insulate and weatherize buildings and replace old appliances with more efficient ones can significantly lower the amount of fuel required to heat and cool buildings, as well as provide other services such as cooking. This not only lowers direct costs for customers but also reduces peak demand and infrastructure that needs to be built.

Under any heating sector net zero vision, there is an important and critical role for electrification. When paired with 100% renewable electricity, electric air-source heat pumps can play an important role in achieving net zero for heat, especially where cost-effective today. **For example, today it is cost-effective for customers who heat with oil, propane, or old electric resistance systems to convert to heating with electric air-source heat pumps.**

A viable and equitable clean energy future must maintain affordable heating options, especially for low to moderate income customers.To that end, **leveraging existing networks – the assets we have already built over decades – simply makes sense for New Yorkers.** In the same way we are decarbonizing the electric network through adoption of renewables, **we will decarbonize the gas system with cleaner fuels, like renewable natural gas and hydrogen.**  Wind and solar generation technology is now cost competitive with traditional generation sources and is becoming commercially scaled. We expect the same type of advances from RNG and hydrogen in the next few years.

To reduce and ultimately eliminate fossil fuels from our energy networks, we must implement regulatory policies that encourage the development of renewable natural gas and green hydrogen for customers by establishing fuel procurement standards for gas utilities.

**We urge the Climate Action Council to consider a pathway that utilizes our existing energy networks, deeply incentivizes energy efficiency and weatherization and recommend the adoption of fuel standards to support fossil free gas in New York.**

Thank you.

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