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KEVIN M. BYRNE
Assemblyman 94th District
Westchester & Putnam Counties

May 12th, 2022

Good Afternoon esteemed members of the Climate Action Council,

Thank you for taking the time to host this important public hearing in the Hudson Valley empowering more New Yorkers to be heard. As the Assemblyman for New York's 94th district, I write this statement to help illustrate a variety of concerns with forethought and clarity.

The New York State Climate Action Council's Draft Scoping Plan, as required by the 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, if fully implemented, would fundamentally alter the daily lives of every New York resident and business of the state in its efforts to reach 100% Zero-emission Electricity by 2040 and 85% Reduction below 1990-level GHG Emissions by 2050.

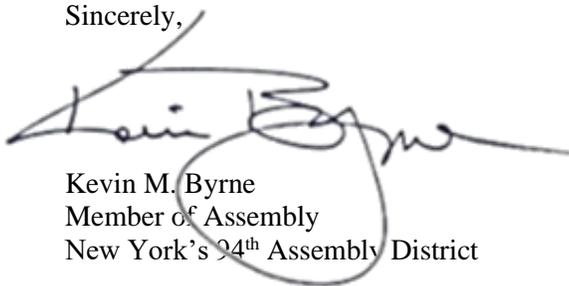
Many of the proposals and goals within the Draft Scoping Plan are improbable, costly, and will likely cause more damage, despite best intentions. Gas and oil currently make up more than two-thirds of the energy downstate and one-third statewide, and estimates state mass electrification of our houses and cars will increase electric demand by 65 to 80%. How will we reach this demand when 40% of our state's current electric consumption already comes from natural gas-fired plants? The struggle to meet demand is only further compounded by the recent closure of the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant in the Hudson Valley.

The plan also seeks to make radical and sudden changes to the way New Yorkers live in their homes. This includes the prohibition of natural gas and oil equipment in new homes by 2024, as well as the prohibition of traditional gas heating systems by 2030. Additionally, sales of new, gas-powered vehicles would be banned by 2035. It is estimated that one to two million homes will need to install heat pumps by 2030. This will be yet another costly Albany mandate on New Yorkers throughout the state.

At this time the proposals contained in the Draft Scoping Plan are unrealistic and would be detrimental to our New York families, our economy and our infrastructure. Plans for a shift towards clean energy in our state need to include detailed and prudent objectives that can be reached while accounting for the financial wellbeing, as well as the energy needs, of our state and its residency.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,



Kevin M. Byrne
Member of Assembly
New York's 94th Assembly District