I am Joshua Cohen with Partners for Climate Action Hudson Valley and the Hudson Valley Climate Action Network.

Thank you to the Climate Action Council and Advisory Panels and to the New York State agency teams for your service, and for listening.

The CLCPA is the most ambitious and progressive climate law in the nation. The world is watching. What happens here in New York matters. If we fail, it will have colossal implications for climate progress everywhere.

My organization commissioned a study by Fernleaf to examine future, local climate impacts on the Hudson Valley, and the results are bleak. This region can expect to see major changes in temperature, growing season length, and flooding. By the end of the century, under a higher emissions scenario, Westchester County where the last CAC public hearing was held, for example, is projected to see about 78 days annually where the maximum temperature will be above 90°F, up from only 9 days per year in the 30-year period before 1990. This is huge.

I’m here today to voice my strong support for *An Accelerated Transition Away from Fossil Fuels*.

And to voice two requests:

* The plan must center equity throughout each recommendation.
* We need funding – at least $15B/annually – to implement this law. An equitable, economy-wide pollution fee is likely the best approach to generate the necessary funds in a just manner.

We must find the funds to help with incentives for the transition off fossil fuels so the burden does not fall directly on low and moderate income communities. We’re already seeing troubling State incentive program money drying up for air-source heat pumps, for example. When demand greatly outpaces available funding incentives, it slows implementation. And we have not even gotten started.

We need funding for direct investments to disadvantaged communities and the affordable housing sector. There should be a safety net guarantee of affordable renewable energy to every household. This should cover most or all initial costs for building electrification and efficiency upgrades, for those who need it most. The final plan should state explicitly that NYS will need to commit at least $1 billion in funds annually to support energy efficiency and electrification for Disadvantaged Communities and low to moderate-income households.

Here are a few additional points that I think are relevant here in the Hudson Valley:

* The proposed ban on any fossil fuels in new single-family homes and low-rise residential units built by 2024 and all buildings by 2027 is critical to meeting our CLCPA targets, as well as advanced energy building codes for new and renovated residential and commercial buildings.
* The State should make renewable energy siting a more streamlined and simplified process. This requires full staffing of agencies like the Office of Renewable Energy Siting, and a public education campaign on the benefits and opportunities of clean energy.
* The scoping plan should recognize and acknowledge the differences in needs between rural, suburban, and urban areas.
* We should pay farmers and foresters for ecosystem services.
* Climate considerations should be integrated into Agricultural Energy Management Plans on farms, as well as watershed management plans.
* The plan doesn’t go far enough to reduce emissions from dairy CAFOs; mandatory regulation would limit negative climate and pollution impacts; let’s rely less on voluntary programs.
* Fees on fertilizer will reduce NOx emissions.
* Municipal composting of food and yard waste should be mandatory.

We’re out of time. Thank you.