

Dear Climate Action Council,

I'm Laura Faulk and I live in Saratoga Springs. I'm the Co-chair of The Climate Reality Project, Capital Region, NY Chapter. My professional background is in science and engineering. I have a degree in physics from the University of Texas at Austin and was an engineer and manager in the semiconductor manufacturing industry. I'm gravely concerned about the increasing disruption to our life sustaining climate system.

Thank you for the inclusion of Economy-wide Strategies in the draft plan. We need economy-wide carbon pricing to help ensure that we meet the goals of the CLCPA.

I strongly urge the council to recommend adopting a price on carbon in its final plan. Countless economists and scientists say that it is the single most effective policy to quickly reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses. Carbon pricing would also complement or increase the effectiveness of many other recommended policies and programs.

I recommend a carbon fee and dividend program as the framework for an economy-wide strategy, where a fee or tax is imposed at the source of any fossil fuel generated or imported into the state, with most of the revenue returned to low- and middle-income households, and perhaps certain businesses including small farms, to offset higher energy costs.

I also recommend that the carbon price start low and rise gradually each year. This, along with returning revenue to households and small businesses like farms who would be impacted most by a carbon fee, is necessary to provide people and businesses reasonable time to transition to cleaner energy sources in response to clear, predictable pricing signals.

Please note that carbon pricing is preferred over many other alternatives because it is straightforward, non-regulatory, and more price-certain, which is better for businesses and individual consumers.

I strongly recommend that carbon pricing in NY must apply to more than the electricity sector through RGGI. Absent a price on carbon in other sectors, electricity costs would be higher relative to fossil energy costs. This will have the undesirable impact of actually discouraging other key CAC recommendations on the electrification of New York's building and transportation sectors, resulting in slower adoption of sector-based recommendations for accelerated electrification of buildings and transportation.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Laura Faulk