Sara Schultz, Sierra Club Niagara Group, WNY Interfaith Climate Justice Community, Renewable Heat Now Volunteer

As New Yorkers, who in 2017 were the leading contributors of greenhouse gases produced by buildings, .. we **must** take the lead in transitioning to electrification of the built environment. If it can be done in NYC, where buildings produce 70% of the city's greenhouse gas emissions then surely it can be done across our state.

In spite of over 100 years of scientific evidence on climate change.. there is still an increase in carbon every year. This is **no** time for short term thinking. This is no time to rely on false solutions like "green hydrogen". Nothing is more efficient than direct electrification. At the Climate Action Council hearings I heard nothing about investing in more utility scale solar with battery storage to create a dependable, clean electric grid. There was talk about hybrid solutions but the true hybrid solution is to combine electrification with green energy sources backed up storage. The technology for improved pumped storage hydropower and different utility scale battery storage systems with wind integration.

The economy is more threatened by climate disasters than it is by a fair and just transition to electrification. There will be hundreds of retrofitting jobs available with the Building Codes legislation. Geo-grids will keep pipe fitters working. No wonder their Union supported the Thermal Energy Bill. However, we must subsidize and incentivize properly. Without NYS Clean Energy Loans, NYS rebates and Federal tax incentives, we could never have afforded our own geothermal system and solar installation along with both of our Chevy electric vehicles. We have a smoothly functioning hybrid system! Best of all, after living with the system for 12 years our heating, cooling and hot water are compliments of sun and earth. With a rebate for geothermal in NYS that time would be shortened considerably. Bringing this to scale will be our task for a more promising future. Why would we lock ourselves

into dirty fuel for new construction? Let's invest in NY's future, which is here and available and not climate threatening dirty solutions from the past?

Regarding safety, between 2010 and 2019 the U.S. experienced over fourteen hundred major gas related incidents. resulting in deaths, injuries and destruction!

Regarding health, gas stoves create unhealthy kitchens particularly in the smaller homes of lower income families.

Regarding the geo-political costs of fossil fuel dependence, for many years petro-states have fought for greater resources. War cuts down everything in its path. We see daily that nothing is flourishing on the Ukrainian warfront. In this global economy we pay a steep price for our fossil fuel addiction!

The CLCPA is law and laws need teeth! Penalties and rewards! Please be bold and wise and make it possible for every being, from the plankton to the pollinators, to thrive in a clean and safe environment. We have everything to gain if we pass this legislation and everything to lose if we don't.

Lastly, please change the name of the AEBA to make it more palatable to those believing the false narrative that "all electric" means regressing to old heating systems and confiscated gas appliances. Perhaps "The Green Buildings Act" would be smarter.