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**From:** Katie Rygg [PERSONAL EMAIL REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 9, 2026 11:13 AM  
**To:** erda.sm.rggiiprograms  
**Subject:** Comments on the 2026 Draft RGGI Operating Plan Amendment

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Good afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to comment on the RGGI Operating Plan Amendment.

My name is Katie Rygg and I am a mom and a climate advocate with Color Penfield Green. Through the last few years, our organization has offered classes for Penfield residents on Home Weatherization and Electrification - in partnership with the Town of Penfield and our local NYSERDA Hub. The class on heat pumps was a Clean Energy Communities Community Campaign.

NY State's climate law of 2019 is necessarily ambitious. The science tells us we must act swiftly. In our region, buildings are an enormous contributor to emissions, but if we aren't careful in how we approach emissions reductions in this sector, we will leave the most vulnerable behind. My family could afford electrification efforts. Our all-electric home saves us 74% on our home heating and cooling bills and we no longer burn fossil fuels to be comfortable in our home. The EmPower+ program is a powerful way for those without as much discretionary income to reach those same goals: reduce energy bills, reduce energy usage, reduce emissions, improve indoor air quality - and improve quality of life.

This is a worthy program and I am grateful that others in positions of authority in NYS have proposed the draft 2026 RGGI Operating Plan amendment which would significantly increase funding for the EmPower+ program for the next three years. Rewiring America states that 90% of EmPower+ allocations will directly benefit LMI and disadvantaged communities. This is exactly the kind of program that works in my community and pushes our audience to reconsider installing that new gas heating system, helping them to finally address their drafty homes. This program works.

I wholeheartedly agree with the proposal to increase EmPower+ funding through the RGGI program.

Thank you!  
Sincerely,  
Katie Rygg  
[PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION REDACTED]