



# Monroe County Legislature

**Susan Hughes-Smith**  
Legislator - District 14

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Committee Assignment	
<del>Memorizing Referral</del>	-L

To The Honorable  
Monroe County Legislature  
39 West Main Street  
Rochester, NY 14614

**RE: Requesting the New York State Legislature and the Governor Implement the New York State Climate Action Council Scoping Plan**

Honorable Legislators,

The Sixth Assessment of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) finds that climate change is causing dangerous widespread disruption in nature and affecting the lives of billions of people around the world. This IPCC assessment concluded that rapid, deep, and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) are necessary, including accelerated action in this critical decade, to limit global warming to within 1.5 °C and 2°C in this century.

New York State has recognized the urgent need to reduce and eliminate GHG emissions in the atmosphere, passing the 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act ("Climate Act") committing the State to:

- Reduce GHG emissions by 40 percent by 2030 below 1990 levels, and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050;
- Meet 70 percent of electricity needs from renewable resources by 2030, and 100 percent of electricity needs from zero-emissions resources by 2040;
- Ensure a just and equitable transition that leaves no one behind, and dedicate up to 40 percent of the benefits of clean energy investments to Disadvantaged Communities; and

The New York State Climate Action Council has approved for public comment a Draft Scoping Plan to meet New York's climate and equity goals. This plan calls for shifting to energy-efficient electrification in buildings and transportation as the primary solution to replace



fossil-fuel combustion in these sectors, which together account for 60% of the state's carbon emissions. While ensuring support and protections for impacted workers as they transition to clean energy jobs, the Scoping Plan calls for a phase-down of emissions from fossil fuel-fired electricity generation. The 2021 Jobs Study by the Just Transition Working Group for the NYS Climate Action Council estimates that meeting New York's climate goals will result in a net gain of 189,000 jobs across the state by 2030, alone, with a ratio of jobs gained to jobs displaced of ten to one (10:1).

Measures to expand the development of renewable resources and battery storage, encourage "agrivoltaics," or the co-location of agricultural activities with solar and wind, and provide resources to communities to assist with renewable siting and land-use planning are all included in the Scoping Plan. Recognized in the Scoping Plan is also the critical role that rural landscapes play, both natural and working lands, in sequestering carbon emissions and enabling the state to achieve net-zero emissions, and the importance of agricultural land preservation, open space protection, support for farmers to improve soil health, and policies that expand afforestation and reforestation and incentivize and assist private landowners in implementing sustainable forest management practices.

The Integration Analysis for the Scoping Plan finds that meeting emissions reduction goals of the Climate Act is technically feasible and will have the additional and significant benefit of improving public health by eliminating co-pollutants from fossil fuel combustion, resulting in an estimated \$50 billion to \$120 billion in health-related savings by 2050. According to NYSERDA, over half of what New Yorkers currently spend on energy leaves the State, mostly for fossil fuels. Our communities would be better served by keeping energy spending primarily within the local economy.

Given all of the aforementioned information, the Monroe County Legislature affirms the critical importance of meeting the emissions and equity goals of the Climate Act, which will help mitigate dangerous warming while delivering the additional benefits of improving public health, economic opportunities, agricultural land open space protection, and quality of life for the people of Monroe County. Support for prohibiting an expansion of fossil-fuel infrastructure, which contradicts the goals of the Climate Act, is necessary. And instead supporting the transition to efficient electricity-based solutions for buildings and transportation. As well as a planning process for a managed transition of the utility gas system that maintains affordable, safe, and reliable utility service and protects low- and moderate- income households from an undue burden in the transition.

The Scoping Plan also recommends advanced building codes that will improve the energy efficiency of new buildings, creating healthier living and work environments, while reducing monthly energy costs. As well as the recommendation to phase in code requirements prohibiting on-site combustion of fossil-fuels in new buildings over a 2024-2027 period. Both of these recommendations must be supported by the Legislature.

The Monroe County Legislature calls on the Climate Action Council to include in the Scoping Plan the necessary policies and support to help owners of existing buildings improve

energy efficiency and transition to zero-emissions equipment, ensuring cost parity with fossil systems, with incentives and financing assistance as necessary. The Legislature also urges the Climate Action Council to include in the Scoping Plan recommendations to expand assistance for all-electric upstate municipal transit systems. As well as the recommendation to make electric vehicles more affordable relative to gas-powered vehicles.

The Monroe County Legislature further urges the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and NYSERDA to immediately launch a sustained statewide public education and information campaign on the benefits of a clean energy economy and climate-friendly choices by consumers of heating and cooling systems, transportation, and products and appliances.

The Monroe County Legislature urges the New York State Legislature and Governor to implement this plan along with the Commissioner of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, President of NYSERDA, and the Chair of the NYS Public Service Commission, knowing that taking action on this matter is paramount for the vitality of Monroe County and its residents.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Hughes-Smith  
Legislator – District 14



Yversha M. Roman  
Democratic Minority Leader



Rachel Barnhart  
Assistant Minority Leader



Linda Hasman  
Assistant Minority Leader



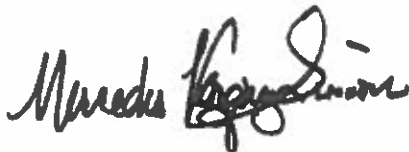
Michael Yudelson  
Legislator – District 13



Dave Long  
Legislator – District 16



Maria Vecchio  
Legislator – District 17



Mercedes Vazquez-Simmons  
Legislator – District 22



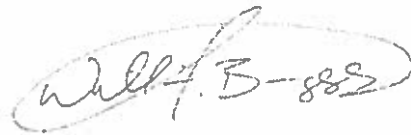
Albert Blankley  
Legislator – District 24



Carolyn Delvecchio Hoffman  
Legislator – District 25

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ricky Frazier".

Ricky Frazier  
Legislator – District 28

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Will. B. Burgess".

William Burgess  
Legislator – District 29