

Monroe County Legislature

DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

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April 11, 2022

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

OFFICIAL FILE COPY	
No.	<u>220117</u>
Not to be removed from the Office of the Legislature Of Monroe County	
Committee Assignment	
<u>Memorializing Referral</u>	<u>-L</u>

RE: Memorializing the New York State Legislature to Pass the Gas Transition and Affordable Energy Act

Honorable Legislators:

The United States produces 14% of global carbon emissions. New York State alone accounts for 0.5% of global emissions which means our state produces half the emissions that countries like the United Kingdom, Italy, France, Australia, Mexico, or Poland produce.

Monroe County has been a state-wide leader in environmental sustainability. Most recently, Monroe County became a Climate Smart Community and is developing a climate action plan. However, it will be impossible to achieve greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals without a realignment of the rules governing gas utilities.

We ask that New York State enact S8198/A9329, The Gas Transition and Affordable Energy Act (the "Act"). We thank Senator Samra Brouk and Assemblymembers Bronson, Clark, Lunsford, and Meeks for their leadership in co-sponsoring this Act. The Act makes the greenhouse gas and equity mandates of New York State's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) part of the Public Service Commission's (PSC) core responsibilities and removes the conflicts between the CLCPA and Public Service Law.

In the absence of these changes, PSC is unable to implement the CLPCA when it comes to gas utilities.

The Act will:

- End ratepayer-subsidized incentives for fossil fuel infrastructure expansion;
- Require the PSC to develop a state-wide gas utility services de-carbonization plan based on clear biennial gas sales reduction targets;
- Not only increase the pace of electrification, but it will reduce emissions and costs;
- Require the PSC to design new energy pricing policies to achieve energy affordability – defined as no more than 6% of household income going toward utility energy bills.


According to NYSDERDA's Low-to-Moderate-Income Market Characterization Study Special Topic Report - Household Energy (data from 2009), low-income households spend an average of 12.6% on energy bills, moderate-income households average 6.4%, and non-low or moderate income households average 2.4%. Approximately 9% of all New York households spend 25% or more of their income on energy utility bills and 45% of all New York households are considered energy burdened.

We ask that New York State Legislature to pass S8198/A9329, The Gas Transition and Affordable Energy Act, and for Governor Kathy Hochul to sign the Act into law.

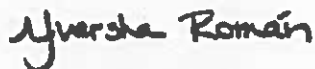
Respectfully submitted,



Michael Yudelson
Legislator - District 13



Susan Hughes-Smith
Legislator - District 14



Yversha M. Roman
Democratic Minority Leader



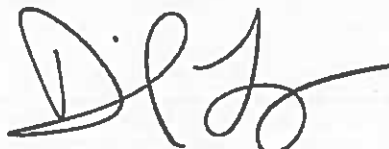
Rachel Barnhart
Assistant Minority Leader



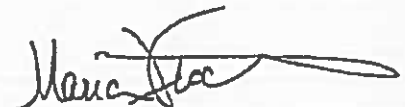
Linda Hasman
Assistant Minority Leader



Howard Maffucci
Legislator - District 10



Dave Long
Legislator - District 16



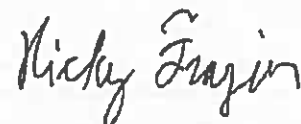
Maria Vecchio
Legislator - District 17



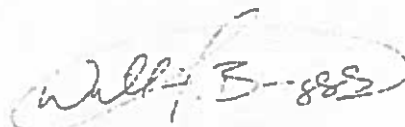
Albert Blankley
Legislator - District 24



Carolyn Delvecchio Hoffman
Legislator - District 25



Ricky Frazier
Legislator - District 28



William Burgess
Legislator - District 29