

Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Governor of New York State
New York State Capitol
Executive Chamber
Albany, NY 12224

Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Temporary President and Majority Leader
New York State Senate
Legislative Office Building,
Room 907
Albany, NY 12247

Honorable Carl Heastie,
Speaker
New York State Assembly
Legislative Office
Building, Room 932
Albany, NY 12248

June 13, 2019

Re: Pass the Strongest Possible Climate and Community Protection Act Now

Dear Governor Cuomo, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, and Speaker Heastie:

With five scheduled session days left in this year's legislative session, the undersigned organizations urge you to update, strengthen, and pass the Climate and Community Protection Act sponsored by Senator Todd Kaminsky and Assemblymember Steve Englebright. Climate change is the most pressing issue of our time – threatening our entire economy and way of life. Right now, you have an opportunity to enact climate legislation that will lead the nation and serve as a model for the rest of the country.

We must decarbonize the economy and drastically reduce our reliance on fossil fuels as soon as possible. This is the only way that we can forestall the catastrophic effects of climate change and protect New York State's most vulnerable communities. We are already seeing the effects of a changing climate across the state, with more frequent floods and droughts, rising seas, and sweltering summer heat. We must act before these consequences surpass our ability to respond and rebuild.

A three-way agreement on a responsible, economy-wide climate bill will demonstrate to the nation how it is possible to address climate change and create thousands of new green jobs in a way that is just, equitable and provides opportunity for all.

This is achievable. But time is running out. And the time to act is now.

We can create durable and lasting change with the support of strong policy, and we need you as our State's leaders to address this growing crisis. We know that the Administration, Senate, and Assembly have been working to craft the strongest legislation possible, and if you work together, as you have done on so many environmental policies this year, we are confident that New York State can pass the most progressive climate bill in the nation this year.

Thank you for your support and for your continuing attention to this urgent issue.

Sincerely,

William C. Janeway, Executive Director
Adirondack Council

Anne Reynolds, Executive Director
Alliance for Clean Energy NY

Samantha Levy, New York Policy Manager
American Farmland Trust

Valerie Strauss, Director, Policy & Regulatory Affairs
Association for Energy Affordability, Inc.

Erin McGrath, Policy Manager
Audubon New York

Wes Gillingham, Associate Director
Catskill Mountainkeeper

Adrienne Esposito, Executive Director
Citizens Campaign for the Environment

Peter Savio, Policy Advisor
Citizens Climate Lobby New York

Amanda Vanega, NY Policy Coordinator
Coalition for Community Solar Access

Noah Dubin, Eastern States Advocate
E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs)

Peter Iwanowicz, Executive Director
Environmental Advocates of New York

Jackson Morris, Director, Eastern Region, Climate & Clean Energy Program
Natural Resource Defense Council

Julie Tighe, President
New York League of Conservation Voters

Shyam Mehta, Executive Director
New York Solar Energy Industries Association (NYSEIA)

Jennifer Pautz, Senior Director, Government Affairs
New York University

Elizabeth Broad, Director
New Yorkers for Clean Power

Jeremy Cherson, Legislative Advocacy Manager
Riverkeeper

Tracy Brown, Director
Save the Sound

Andy Bicking, Director of Public Policy and Special Projects
Scenic Hudson, Inc.

Roger Downs, Conservation Director
Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter

David Gahl, Senior Director of State Affairs, Northeast
Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA)

Jessica Ottney Mahar, New York Policy Director
The Nature Conservancy

Sean Garren, Senior Director - Northeast
Vote Solar

Cc: The Honorable Todd Kaminsky
The Honorable Steve Englebright