



Dear Neighbors,

In 2019 our [Climate Leadership and Community Protection Law](#) was passed to address the fact that even though we had a patchwork of successful state initiatives moving our state away from a dependence on fossil fuels, we were not moving at a rate that aligned with the [International Paris Agreement](#) to take action to keep the global temperature from rising beyond 1.5 degrees. The NYS law created a timeline to meet goals leading to net zero emissions by 2050. It also set an accounting system for short lived greenhouse gases like methane that followed the science and not prevailing politics. Finally, it established the [Climate Action Council](#) tasked with creating a roadmap to accelerate our transition to the timeline the law established.

The Climate Action Council's [Scoping Plan](#) is New York's comprehensive roadmap for achieving the state's climate law targets, outlining the policies, investments, and sector-by-sector actions needed to reduce emissions, transition to clean energy, and build a more equitable and resilient economy.

Given that New York is one of the largest single economies in the world and one of the largest consumers of natural gas in the United States, actions we take to limit our greenhouse gases will truly have a global impact. This plan was designed to create 10s of thousands of good paying jobs, create energy independence from the international fossil fuel market including building out our electricity grid infrastructure, reduce state and global greenhouse gas emissions, reduce the billions of dollars NY spends every year rebuilding infrastructure damaged by climate change, improve public health, and put money directly back in the hands of New Yorkers impacted by any changes in price of gas at the pump.

We have continued implementing the programs that existed prior to the passage of our climate law but we have not implemented the major recommendations to date from the roadmap since 2019 and as a result we are way off track in reaching the targets established by the law. We have two choices - we can either step up and take action towards meeting the targets established by law or we can roll back the law and continue taking no significant actions. This past Friday the [Governor released a proposal](#) to add in the four thousand page budget that will roll back the timeline for the law and change the methane accounting rule from the science-based system to one based on politics and fossil fuel corporate pressure. Below I have included my public statement in response

to the proposal from the Governor outlining why I feel that this plan will exacerbate energy affordability issues in the state.

***“All flourishing is mutual. When we understand that we belong to the land, the land belongs to us in return.”*** - Robin Wall Kimmerer, Author of the best seller Braiding Sweetgrass, SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor at the College of Environmental Science and Forestry, American botanist, and enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation



### **Statement from Assemblymember Kelles in Response to Governor's Proposed CLCPA Rollbacks**

This Friday morning, Governor Hochul released a proposal to roll back the timeline for implementing our state climate law and to change how we assess the climate impact of methane. This change in methane accounting will make natural gas appear less harmful on paper. The argument is that these changes will prevent rising utility costs for New Yorkers. The truth, however, is the opposite. Over the last year, New Yorkers have experienced a steady escalation in utility bills, in some cases doubling in cost. State energy authorities have identified natural gas as a major driver of these rising costs. As the Trump administration pushes to expand natural gas exports, New Yorkers will continue to feel the impact through higher and more unpredictable energy costs.

We are particularly vulnerable because New York is one of the country's largest natural gas markets, especially when it comes to home heating. The solution to our affordability crisis is to prioritize building renewable energy infrastructure and create energy independence from this volatile fossil fuel market. States like Iowa, South Dakota, and Vermont, which rely much more on renewable energy, are seeing more stable and often lower electricity costs than New York.

Slowing the timeline to implement our climate law will stall progress toward energy independence, leaving New Yorkers exposed to rising and volatile fossil fuel costs. At the same time, changing the accounting of methane may make natural gas appear to have a smaller impact on climate change, but it does not reduce its real-world harm. That means we will fail to meaningfully reduce our climate impact as a state and, adding insult to injury, we will not make utility bills any more affordable for New Yorkers.

We have failed to act on our climate law for years, and we are seeing the consequences. The question now is whether we strengthen our action or weaken the law to avoid it. I believe we should implement the law, not weaken it, so we can create jobs, stabilize energy costs, and finally take control of our energy future.

For another perspective on the Governor's proposal you can read here the statement from [Concerned Health Professionals of NY](#).

Here is a [letter signed by over 65 climate scientists](#) from around the world in response to the [NYSERDA memo](#) that the Governor is using as a justification for rolling back the climate law.

In good health,



Anna Kelles, Ph.D.

Assemblymember, 125th A.D.

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