



May 8, 2019

Dear Speaker Heastie, Assemblyman Englebright, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, Senator Kaminsky, and Governor Cuomo:

We are members and supporters of the New York chapter of E2, a national, nonpartisan group of business leaders, investors, and professionals from every sector of the economy. We are job creators, innovators, and entrepreneurs, and we are urging New York's lawmakers to pass historic, nation-leading climate action legislation this session by finding a consensus solution that incorporates elements from both the Climate and Community Protection Act and the Governor's Climate Leadership Act, as well as other climate change fighting strategies put forward by other stakeholders.

We believe that many of the solutions to the climate crisis already exist in these two bills, and we are urging you to draw upon the best ideas from each of them to create one comprehensive piece of climate action legislation.

Specifically, we are calling on the Legislature to accomplish the following in one final piece of legislation:

1.) Put forth a comprehensive emissions reduction plan that builds on the state's existing state energy planning process. We recommend building from the existing state energy planning process to create a more comprehensive State Climate Plan. This approach would provide a seamless mechanism for state regulators to address topics like land use planning, agriculture, resiliency, and adaptation, which are not currently reflected in the State Energy Plan, without creating a redundant or complicated new reporting structure.

2.) Aim for net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and create a roadmap to achieve that goal. We urge the Legislature to call on the state's agencies to develop sector-specific plans that together chart a path to zero net GHG emissions by 2050. We recommend that the plan include all sectors to be as aggressive as possible, while providing a stringent crediting program to allow for carbon sinks to offset emissions that cannot feasibly be eliminated. To ensure that communities benefit from cleaner air, we recommend that no credits be permitted for emissions from the electric sector, and that credits are used only as a last resort.

3.) Codify and strengthen the state's aggressive clean energy and efficiency programs. We recommend that the Legislature codify the Governor's State of the State goals of 70 percent renewable energy by 2030 and 100 percent emissions free energy by 2040, as well as technology specific goals such as 3,000 megawatts of energy storage by 2030, 6,000 megawatts of distributed solar energy by 2025, and 9,000 megawatts of offshore wind by 2035. The legislation should also enshrine in statute recent aggressive energy efficiency goals adopted by the state's Public Service Commission and build from the state's many successful clean energy programs,

including the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI); the \$1 billion NY-Sun program to scale up solar power; and ChargeNY, EVolve NY, and the Drive Clean Rebate to expand electric vehicle infrastructure statewide.

4.) Prioritize equity in all the above. For too long, communities of color, frontline communities, and low-income communities have been sidelined in climate policy discussions. Both the Climate and Community Protection Act and the Climate Leadership Act create structures to improve and strengthen how these communities are included in the decision-making process. We believe that programs targeted at underserved communities need to be prioritized, with a significant portion of any revenue specifically earmarked for investment in those communities.

The findings in the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's recent landmark report are dire, and it is clear that we are approaching an inflection point in global climate advocacy. As business leaders, we know that smart climate policy *is* smart economic policy. We know that bold climate action is a job creator, and that by investing in renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, and net zero emissions, we can stave off the worst effects of climate change while growing the economy, driving investment, and creating quality jobs.

As New York State lawmakers, you have the chance to make history this year by passing a comprehensive climate action bill. Please, do not let us down.

Respectfully,

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