December 7, 2020

VIA E-MAIL

Hon. Michelle L. Phillips
Secretary to the Commission
New York State Public Service Commission
Three Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12223

RE: Proceeding on Motion of the Commission in Regard to Gas Planning Procedures Case Number: 20-G-0131

Dear Secretary Phillips:

Please find attached for filing in the above referenced proceeding a letter signed by 175 elected officials from all 10 regions of New York. This letter was previously filed on October 15, 2020 with 91 signers. Since that time, 84 more elected officials have joined the letter.

Sincerely,

/s/
Jessica Azulay
Executive Director, Alliance for a Green Economy
Submitting on behalf of Renewable Heat Now

Sign-On Letter for Elected Officials Re: Case #20-G-0131 - Proceeding on Motion of the Commission in Regard to Gas Planning Procedures

To: Secretary Michelle L. Phillips
CC: Governor Andrew Cuomo, John Rhodes, NYDPS Chair, Public Service Commissioners: Tracey Edwards, Diane X. Burman, James Alesi, and John Howard.

Re: Proceeding on Motion of the Commission in Regard to Gas Planning Procedures Case Number: 20-G-0131

The undersigned elected officials thank the NY Public Service Commission (PSC) for initiating this ground-breaking proceeding. A managed, equitable, affordable transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy is in the best interests of our constituents and all New Yorkers. It is incumbent upon the PSC to enact a well-researched, comprehensive plan to align New York's gas utilities with the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). We must ensure all people in New York have the energy needed for heating, hot water, and cooking, and that access to renewable options for these services is provided in a timely, orderly, and affordable manner.

We whole-heartedly support this proceeding. In the aftermath of chaotic gas moratoria declared in 2019 by some utilities, the State must require utilities to plan better for the future, and this planning must take climate goals into account. Such chaotic situations impose an extra cost to local governments and residents.

We ask the PSC to use this proceeding to impose measurable emissions reduction requirements on gas utilities to achieve the goals of the CLCPA. Climate change is rapidly exceeding worst case predictions; aggressive goals and benchmarks for energy transition are needed to get ahead of the escalating speed of the climate emergency.

Additionally, the following outcomes are needed to ensure the gas planning proceeding is successful:

NYSERDA must provide guidance and resources to cities and towns for responsible development. New construction is one of the drivers of gas expansion, but it is often more economical for new buildings to go “all electric” with energy efficiency, heat pumps, and induction stoves, rather than investing in outdated fossil fuel combustion technologies. Local

municipalities and cities need planning resources to help their local residents and businesses avoid costly retrofits, stranded assets, and crises due to gas moratoria.

Require steps to ensure affordability and resilience of the electric grid. As heating costs shift from the gas bill to the electric bill, the Commission must work to make electricity more affordable to customers, especially those struggling already to pay their bills.

Require gas and electric utilities to plan comprehensively together so that as customers are shifted to renewable thermal energy for heating and cooking, there is a renewable-based electricity supply to provide the power for those uses.

As we move to fully electric heating and cooking, consequences of outages will become more severe. Direct the utilities to invest more in electric grid resilience and reliability, such as buried power lines in areas with high outages, distributed electricity generation, and renewably powered microgrids.

We look forward to working with you to help our communities transition from fossil fuels. A comprehensive planning process, resources for municipalities to support this transition, and a focus on affordability will ensure that we can avoid chaotic gas moratoria and ensure an orderly transition to renewable heating.

Sincerely,

Western New York (8)
Timothy M. Kennedy, New York State Senate, 63rd
Tom Abinanti, NYS Assembly, 92nd District
Patrick Burke, NYS Assembly, 142nd District
Crystal Peoples-Stokes, NYS Assembly 141st District
Sean Ryan, NYS Assembly 149th District
Monica Wallace, NYS Assembly, 143rd District
Joel P. Feroleto, Common Council, City of Buffalo
Paul H. Rudz, Trustee, Village of Lancaster

Finger Lakes (7)
Sarah Clark, NYS Assembly, 136th District
Frank Keophetlasy , Monroe County Legislator
Mitch Gruber, Councilmember, City of Rochester
Mary Lupien, Councilmember, City of Rochester

Robin Wilt, Councilmember, Town of Brighton
Mildred Sefranek, Councilmember, Town of Henrietta
Anthony Del Plato, Deputy Mayor, Village of Interlaken

Southern Tier (30)
Barbara Lifton, NYS Assembly, 125th District
Christina Sonsire, Chemung County Legislator
Shawna M. Black, Tompkins County Legislator
Deborah Dawson, Tompkins County Legislator
Anna Kelles*, Tompkins County Legislator *NYS Assembly 125th District elect
Dan Klein, Tompkins County Legislator
Anne Koreman, Tompkins County Legislator
Martha Robertson, Tompkins County Legislator
Kathryn E. Paterson, Councilman, City of Corning
Mark Witmer, Supervisor, Town of Caroline
Timothy Murray, Councilmember, Town of Caroline
John Fracchia, Councilmember, Town of Caroline
Irene Weiser, Councilmember, Town of Caroline
Joel Gagnon, Town Supervisor, Town of Danby
Sarah Schnabel, Councilmember, Town of Danby
Stephanie Redmond, Supervisor, Town of Enfield
Virginia C. Bryant, Councilperson, Town of Enfield
Benjamin G Darfler, Trustee, Village of Trumansburg
Jason Leifer, Supervisor, Town of Dryden
Dan Lamb, Deputy Supervisor, Town of Dryden
James E. Skaley, Councilperson, Town of Dryden
Loren Sparling, Councilperson, Town of Dryden
Rod Howe, Supervisor, Town of Ithaca
Bronwyn Losey, Councilperson, Town of Lansing
Joseph Wetmore, Town Board, Town of Lansing
Ronny Hardaway, Trustee, Village of Lansing
Brent A Stermer, Councilman, City of Elmira
William D. Goodman, Deputy Supervisor, Town of Ithaca
Svante Myrick, Mayor, City of Ithaca
Laura Lewis, Alderperson, City of Ithaca

Central New York (10)
Rachel May, NYS Senate, 53rd District
Pamela Hunter, NYS Assembly, 128th District
William T Kinne, Onondaga County Legislator
Mary Kuhn, Onondaga County Legislator
Kerin Rigney, Town Councilor, Town of DeWitt
John Deer, Councilor, Town of Manlius
Elaine Denton, Councilor, Town of Manlius
Katelyn Kriesel, Councilor, Town of Manlius
Heather Waters, Councilor, Town of Manlius
Joseph Driscoll, Common Council Member, Syracuse

North Country (2)
Melinda Little, Trustee, Village of Saranac Lake
Teresa Cheetham-Palen, Councilperson, Town of Keene

Mohawk Valley (1)
Gregory Young, Fulton County Supervisor

Capital District (2)
William Reinhardt, Albany County Legislator
Merton Simpson, Albany County Legislator

Hudson Valley (82)
Pete Harckham, NYS Senate, 40th District
Jen Metzger, New York State Senate, 42nd District
David Buchwald, NYS Assembly 93rd
Sandy Galef, NYS Assembly, 95th District
Nick Page, Dutchess County Legislator
Kevindaryán Luján, Orange County Legislator
George Latimer, Westchester County Executive
José Alvarado , Westchester County Legislator
Nancy E. Barr, Westchester County Legislator
Catherine Borgia, Westchester County Legislator
Benjamin Boykin II, Westchester County Legislator
Terry Clements , Westchester County Legislator
Kitley Covill, Westchester County Legislator
Christopher A. Johnson, Westchester County Legislator

Damon Maher, Westchester County Legislator
Catherine Parker, Westchester County Legislator
MaryJane Shimsky, Westchester County Legislator
Colin D. Smith, Westchester County Legislator
Ruth Walter, Westchester County Legislator
Manna Jo Greene, Ulster County Legislator
Lee Kyriacou, Mayor, City of Beacon
Amber Grant, Councilmember, City of Beacon
Michael Aymar-Blair, Councilmember, City of Beacon
Jodi McCredo, Councilmember, City of Beacon
Terry Nelson, Councilmember, City of Beacon
Air Rhodes, Councilmember, City of Beacon
Ellen Calves, Town Board, Town of Bedford
Kate Galligan, Town Board, Town of Bedford
Bobbi M. Bittker, Town Board, Town of Bedford
MaryAnn Carr, Town Board, Town of Bedford
Steven Vescio, Mayor, Briarcliff Manor
Linda D. Puglisi, Supervisor, Town of Cortlandt
James F. Creighton, Councilman, Town of Cortlandt
Michael Whitton, Councilperson, Town of Clinton
Brian Pugh, Mayor, Village of Croton-On-Hudson
Ann Gallelli, Trustee, Village of Croton-on-Hudson
Sherry Horowitz, Trustee, Village of Croton-On-Hudson
Andy Simmons, Trustee, Village of Croton-on-Hudson
John L. Habib, Trustee, Village of Croton-on-Hudson
Vincent Rossillo, Mayor, Village of Dobbs Ferry
Robert Williams, Mayor, Village of Elmsford
Franco Carucci, Councilman, Town of Gardiner
David Dukler, Councilperson, Town of Gardiner
Paul Feiner, Supervisor, Town of Greenburgh
Mary Lambert, Trustee, Village of Hastings on Hudson
Michael Kohut, Mayor, Town of Haverstraw
Rebecca Wolff, Alderperson, City of Hudson
Tiffany Garriga, Alderperson, City of Hudson
Calvin Jr. Lewis, Common Council, City of Hudson
Mike Boms, Town Board, Town of Hurley
Steven Noble, Mayor, City of Kingston
Lorraine Walsh, Mayor, Village of Larchmont

Tom Murphy, Mayor, Mamaroneck
Gina D. Picinich, Mayor, Mount Kisco
Carl Fulgenzi, Supervisor, Town of Mount Pleasant
Anthony Grice, Councilman at Large, City of Newburgh
Ivy Pool, Town Supervisor, New Castle
Kathleen Tobin, Deputy Mayor, Village of New Paltz
Alexandra Baer, Town Board, Town of New Paltz
Alexandria Wojcik, Trustee, Village of New Paltz
Noam Bramson, Mayor, City of New Rochelle
Sara Kaye, Councilmember, City of New Rochelle
Warren Lucas, Supervisor, Town of North Salem
Dana Levenberg, Supervisor, Town of Ossining
Victoria Gearity, Mayor, Ossining Village
Vanessa Agudelo, Councilmember, City of Peekskill
Ramon Fernandez, Councilmember, City of Peekskill
Patricia Riley, Councilmember, City of Peekskill
Kathleen Talbot, Councilmember, City of Peekskill
Peter Scherer, Mayor, Village of Pleasantville
W. Paul Alvarez, Trustee, Village of Pleasantville
Nicole Asquith, Trustee, Village of Pleasantville
David Vinjamuri, Trustee, Village of Pleasantville
Sarah Salem, Councilmember-at-large, City of Poughkeepsie
Kevin C Hansan, Supervisor, Town of Pound Ridge
Pamela Jaffee, Councilperson, Town of Rye
Paul Rosenberg, Mayor, Village of Rye Brook
Ken Wray, Mayor, Village of Sleepy Hollow
Steven P. Alpert, Trustee and Deputy Mayor, Village of Suffern
Thomas Butler, Mayor, Village of Tarrytown
Thomas Roach, Mayor, City of White Plains
Mike Spano, Mayor, City of Yonkers

New York City (29)
Brad Hoylman, NYS Senate, 27th District
Brian Kavanagh, NYS Senate, 26th District
William Colton, NYS Assembly, 47th District
Robert Carroll, NYS Assembly, 44th District
Martiza Davila, NYS Assembly, 53rd District
Jeffrey Dinowitz, NYS Assembly, 81st District

Harvey Epstein, NYS Assembly, 74th District
Mathylde Frontus, NYS Assembly, 46th District
Richard Gottfried, NYS Assembly, 75th
Yuh-Line Niou, NYS Assembly 65th
Karines Reynes, NYS Assembly 87th
Linda B. Rosenthal, NYS Assembly, 67th District
Nily Rozic, NYS Assembly, 25th District
Jo Anne Simon, NYS Assembly, 52nd District
Al Taylor, NYS Assembly, 71st District
Latrice Walker, NYS Assembly, 55th District
Scott Stringer, NYC Comptroller
Justin Brannan, NYC City Council, District 43
Margaret S. Chin, NYC Council, District 1
Costa Constantinides, NYC City Council, District 22
Daniel Dromm, NYC City Council, 25th
Brad Lander, NYC Council, District 39
Stephen Levin, NYC Council, District 33
Carlos Menchaca, NYC City Council, District 38
Antonio Reynoso, NYC City Council, District 34
Carlina Rivera, NYC City Council, District 2
Lew M Simon, Assembly District Leader, 23rd Assembly District
Eric Adams, Brooklyn Borough President

Long Island (4)
Steve Stern, NYS Assembly, 10th District
Judi Bosworth, Supervisor, Town of North Hempstead
Mariann Dalimonte, Councilperson, Town of North Hempstead
Viviana Russell, Councilwoman, Town of North Hempstead