



October 20, 2022

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor
State of New York
Executive Chamber
The Capitol
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Governor Hochul:

On behalf of business and economic development interests in Upstate New York, the Capital Region Chamber and its economic development affiliate, the Center for Economic Growth (CEG), I am writing regarding the Climate Action Council's Draft Scoping Plan. The Chamber and CEG represent thousands of businesses and organizations from throughout the Capital Region that employ more than 160,000 area residents. As New York State considers its long-term energy policies, it is critical that any such policies include a focus on maintaining a secure, reliable, accessible, and affordable energy supply for business and residential consumers. To this end, I respectfully request you consider the following principles as the state moves forward with its future energy policies.

These principles include:

- Maintaining safe, reliable, and resilient energy infrastructure
- Communicating the economic impacts on residential energy consumers and businesses
- Creating, retaining, and growing high quality jobs
- Leveraging the power of markets to achieve decarbonization
- Reduce emissions from all sectors, including transportation and heating
- Promoting development and maintenance of needed energy infrastructure
- Supporting fuel and technology diversity

We are extremely concerned that the Climate Action Council's (CAC) scoping plan will result in significant costs to residents and businesses, especially in Upstate New York where, as you know, we have very harsh winters as well as a critical mass of energy intensive manufacturing companies that directly and indirectly employ tens of thousands of people.

While the CAC has received thousands of public comments from many businesses and organizations, including the Capital Region Chamber, that have expressed concerns about costs and other critically relevant issues, such as grid reliability, we have not been provided any acknowledgment by the CAC that these comments will be considered as part of its final scoping plan document.

I respect the challenging work of the CAC, but any plan that fails to incorporate the principles outlined above as well as address cost and reliability issues will be a flawed roadmap and position New York State to fail in meeting its climate action goals.

While the Capital Region Chamber and CEG support efforts to reduce the carbon intensity of our economy, we believe that the state's energy policies must ensure access to secure, affordable, and reliable energy, protect energy consumers and their choices, and provide meaningful environmental progress.

We believe that the roadmap to meet the CAC's goals should be pursued through the principles outlined above and in a way that does not put undue financial burden on residents and businesses in Upstate New York.

We appreciate your leadership as Governor of our great state and your commitment to Upstate in protecting us against a plan that would significantly harm our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark N. Eagan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" being the most prominent.

Mark N. Eagan, CCE
President and CEO

cc: Capital Region State Legislative Delegation

**UNITED TO DRIVE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY WITH
ONE VOICE, ONE MISSION, ONE REGION.**

capitalregionchamber.com | 518.431.1400