NEW YORK STATE ENERGY RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Public Hearing on the Draft Energy Plan 2014 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 5 February 25, 2014 DATE: 6 7 TIME: 10:18 a.m. - 12:55 p.m. SUNY Buffalo 8 LOCATION: Center for Tomorrow North Campus 9 Flint & Service Center Roads Buffalo, New York 10 11 HELD BEFORE: John Rhodes, President of NYSERDA 12 James Bays, First Deputy Commissioner of New York State 13 Agriculture & Markets 14 Jared Snyder, Assistant Commissioner of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation 15 James Winebrake, Public Member appointed by 16 Governor Cuomo 17 18 19 REPORTED BY: Jeanne O'Connell, RPR (518) 271-7904 20 21 22 23

CHAIRMAN RHODES: Good morning and welcome. 1 My name is John Rhodes, and I am President and CEO of 2 the New York State Energy Research & Development 3 4 Authority and here today as chair of the State Energy 5 Planning Board. I would like to introduce to you the other 6 7 representatives of the planning board joining me today; Jim Bays, First Deputy Commissioner of the Department of 8 Agriculture and Markets; and James Winebrake, professor 9 and dean, College of Liberal Arts - Rochester Institute 10 of Technology. He's the public member appointed to the 11 12 board by the governor. 13 A couple of ground rules before we get started. And we have just been joined by Jared Snyder, 14 the Assistant Commissioner - Department of Environmental 15 Conservation. 16 So, before we get started, the ground rules, 17 we are quests today of the University of Buffalo so we 18 19 are going to abide by their rules. The only rule I am 20 aware of, and I think we are okay, is no posters on 21 poles or steps. 22 The exits are in the back and off to the 23 side. The restrooms are around there. And if we can

all mute or turn down our cellphones, that would help 1 2 the process very much. This is a hearing to accept public comments 3 on the 2014 Draft State Energy Plan that was approved by 4 5 the State Energy Planning Board on January 7, 2014, and made available on the energy plan website, 6 7 energyplan.ny.gov. 8 The plan was issued in accordance with Article 6 of the Energy Law. Public notice of the 9 10 issuance of the plan and notice of this public hearing 11 was published in the State Register on January 29th. 12 The Draft State Energy Plan is a result of serious, thoughtful work and envisions an energy system 13 14 that is clean, flexible, affordable, resilient and reliable. 15 16 Initiatives to achieve that vision focus on five areas: Improving energy affordability; 17 unleashing the power of private sector financing; 18 providing a more resilient and flexible power grid; 19 20 giving customers more control over their energy use; 21 aligning energy innovation with market demand. 22 Accordingly, the plan outlines long 23 term policy goals that reflect those intentions, near

term action items, and meaningful metrics. 1 2 The draft plan consists of two volumes. The first volume provides 15 key initiatives to advance the 3 state's energy future. The second volume addresses 4 energy uses, its sources and impacts, and provides 5 6 detailed background that was used to develop the overarching vision and initiatives in the first volume. 7 8 This is one of six public hearing sessions that were planned to receive public comments. 9 The 10 remaining sessions are scheduled for Syracuse and for Long Island. 11 Written comments on the draft plan will also 12 be accepted through April 30, and information on 13 14 submitting those written comments can be found on the 15 energy plan website. 16 If you decide to submit written comments, 17 please do so as soon as possible so that they can be 18 considered as carefully as possible. 19 All public comments, whether oral or written, 20 will be considered by the Energy Planning Board as it works toward issuance of the final energy plan. 21 All comments count equally regardless of how they were 22 23 received.

Planning board is targeting issuance of the 1 final plan in the spring of 2014. 2 3 The process today is simple. Those who want to comment at this hearing have been asked to sign in 4 upon arrival. Your name will be called one at a time to 5 When your name is called -- and I apologize now 6 speak. if I happen to mispronounce your name -- please come to 7 8 the podium to provide your statement. The court reporter is here to provide a 9 10 transcript to the planning board of everything that is 11 said today. It is very important that there only be one 12 speaker at a time so that the reporter can hear clearly. Speakers should address their comments in the direction 13 14 of the microphone, and please make an effort to speak 15 clearly and slowly. 16 It is also very important that those in attendance be courteous to the speaker so that his or 17 her comments can be transcribed accurately by the 18 reporter. If you provide a statement and have a written 19 20 version with you, it would be helpful if you could provide that to us either today or following the hearing 21 22 so that we can provide those to the court reporter to 23 assist in providing the transcript.

1	All speakers are asked to focus their
2	comments on issues that pertain to the Draft Energy
3	Plan. Your comments should be as succinct as possible
4	so that we can hear from as many of you as possible. We
5	have set a five minute deadline for that purpose, but of
6	course, after everyone who wishes to speak has had a
7	chance to address the board, repeat speakers may be
8	afforded another five minutes should the hearing time
9	permit.
10	Formal presentations, such as Power Point,
11	are not being allowed today. Again, our goal is to hear
12	from as many of you as possible.
13	As this is a statement hearing, the planning
14	board is not entertaining questions. This is an
15	opportunity for us to receive feedback on the draft
16	plan.
17	Those who wish to comment, but do not wish to
18	speak publicly, or don't get a chance to do so, again,
19	could submit written comments via our website. Again,
20	that is energyplan.ny.gov.
21	With that, I want to thank you again for
22	coming today. If there are any questions about the
23	process, we can take those at this time.

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1	(There was no response.)
2	Seeing none, I will call the first speaker
3	and I will also make a practice of calling the following
4	speaker, the person who is on deck.
5	So, first up is Lynda Schneekloth, followed
6	by James Hufnagle.
7	MS. SCHNEEKLOTH: Good morning and thank you,
8	board members, for coming. We really appreciate your
9	time. We know this is a big job that you have taken on.
10	My name is Lynda Schneekloth, and I am the
11	chair of the Sierra Club Niagara group that has more
12	than 2000 members in western New York. Our goal is to
13	promote renewable energy in western New York wind,
14	solar, water and geothermal so that our children and
15	their children have a future.
16	This position means that we must eliminate
17	all fossil fuels and nuclear energy production; and it
18	means that we replace our electricity, heating and
19	transportation energy needs with renewables.
20	We thank Governor Cuomo for the release of
21	the third New York Energy Plan and the work that it
22	represents. There are some things to really applaud.
23	For example, it's very heartening to see a discussion

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about environmental justice and public health concerns; 1 the requirement to grow a clean energy economy through 2 3 both public and private investment; and actually upgrading and perhaps transforming our energy 4 5 transmission system. 6 These are all very, very important things. 7 However, there are some gaps in this report and 8 assumptions made that we, in the Sierra Club, want to 9 challenge. First, climate destabilization. 10 The report lists five major values or goals in the executive 11 summary and climate change is not one of them. 12 Affordability, financing, resilience and market are 13 important, but to what end? 14 1.5 Without serious address to climate change 16 through the elimination of greenhouse gases achieved through energy efficiency and renewable resources, we 17 endanger our children and, indeed, the earth itself. 18 19 Second, it is obvious throughout the plan that methane and fracked gas are considered as clean 20 21 fuel, as is evidenced by the support for gas infrastructure expansion, LNG for vehicles, and the 22 23 absence of methane as one of the measures of greenhouse

gases for today's RPS targets. 1 Methane is not a clean fuel. It is a fossil 2 3 fuel that is 70 percent more potent than carbon in the first 20 years. And these 20 years are the most 4 5 important time for us in terms of directing climate change. 6 7 Third, the voluntary RPS is not working. The state is currently operating under a goal of 30 percent 8 9 reduction by 2015, and we are far from reaching that goal, in spite of the fact that we started with 19 10 percent from hydro. Unless we mandate enforceable 11 interim targets, we are unlikely to reach our 2050 goal. 12 An energy plan should include conservation/ 13 mitigation and adaptation strategies and it should use 14 best practices. Some of them, which are already 15 implemented in the state, but two of the most effective 16 policies across the globe are not implemented. 17 The mandated renewable energy portfolio 18 standards, that has been very, very successful in other 19 states. And the feed-in tariff currently in Long 20 21 Island. This is a market based strategy for renewable 22 development through purchase power agreements on a long term basis. 23

This has been working throughout the world 1 2 and in Ontario right above us. Why can't we have one in 3 New York? 4 An energy plan should also recognize that the 5 transformation to renewables will create hardships in some communities, and develop a just transition policy 6 7 for impacted workers and communities. 8 And last, an energy plan must acknowledge the 9 idea of climate justice. That's not just affordability for the current generation, although that's important, 10 but it needs to acknowledge that climate justice is our 11 responsibility. 12 13 If this generation -- and that includes all 14 of us in this room right now -- if we do not take action to reduce greenhouse gases immediately, we will be the 15 16 ones who deny life and liberty to our children and their children. 17 We expect more from Governor Cuomo, the State 18 of New York, and, frankly, from ourselves. 19 20 Thank you very much. 21 CHAIRMAN RHODES: After James Hufnagle we 22 have Martin Gugino. 23 MR. HUFNAGLE: Good morning. Thank you for

this opportunity to address you. Three years ago I
 wrote a series of newspaper columns in the Niagara Falls
 Reporter exposing Governor Cuomo's plan for shipping
 fracked water to Niagara Falls for treatment at the
 Niagara Falls water treatment plant and discharge into
 the Niagara River. Exposing these plans and alerting
 the public to the governor's plans to do this.

There is actually an update that I would like 8 9 to put on public record regarding this. That is that, 10 as I wrote at the time, Executive Director Paul Groff of 11 the Niagara Falls Water Board was summoned to Albany 12 twice. Twice is what we were aware of at the time, but subsequently a source of the water board told me that 13 14 actually Mr. Groff was practically commuting to Albany. He made many, many trips at the behest of the Cuomo 15 16 administration to further explore and lay the groundwork and plans to treat this water in the Niagara Falls 17 facility. 18

What that tells me is that I think a lot of people are under the impression that Governor Cuomo is really kind of conflicted on this issue, kind of he hears about the health issues, he knows about the really dangerous practice of fracking, on one hand.

On the other hand, he wants jobs, but it's 1 actually not like that at all. Governor Cuomo wants to 2 frack upstate New York so badly he can taste it. 3 That is his attitude towards upstate. He really wants this 4 fracking to go through to further his ambitions for the 5 White House. 6 And therefore, we need to, over and over and 7 8 over again, tell the governor we don't want fracking in upstate New York. It's a dangerous practice. 9 10 It injects millions of gallons of water under 11 the earth and regurgitates that upwards, stirring 12 radiation, 750 chemicals, 30 of which are toxinogenics, and that water has to be disposed of. What are they 13 14 doing? They are injecting it miles under the earth, places like Ohio and Texas, causing earthquakes. 15 16 And there is no possible way to get rid of this water effectively without endangering the public 17 health. And the governor needs to understand that. We 18 don't want fracking here in upstate New York. 19 20 Why did he set aside the New York City watershed to be exempt from fracking and open us up and 21 22 exposed to that? So, it's on hold right now, but we know that the industry has tons of money. They are 23

1 spending tons of money.

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2	Every time you turn on the TV there is
3	propaganda from the industry, every five minutes
4	commercial. And also we know that money buys influence
5	in Albany. We know Governor Cuomo has taken huge
6	campaign contributions from the industry.
7	So, Governor Cuomo, you need to ban fracking.
8	You need to tell the people that you are banning
9	fracking, and not delay and obfuscate and throw
10	smokescreens around the issue. We need a definitive
11	statement by the governor to ban fracking in upstate New
12	York.
13	CHAIRMAN RHODES: Martin Gugino, followed by
14	Robert Ciesielski.
14 15	Robert Ciesielski. MR. GUGINO: Thank you very much. I wanted
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15 16 17 18 19 20	MR. GUGINO: Thank you very much. I wanted to speak mostly about fracking, but then I saw a note it was going to be about two documents, so I did start to look at them online last night. I'm glad to have a hard copy available so I have some comments about it. I have a few comments, just on say the first

It says here imagine your home appliances 1 2 monitoring energy prices that should be in sleep mode 3 during peak hours to save you money. So, this is all about addressing the issue of peak load and helping the 4 5 transmission even out the peaks. 6 But the thing that's essential for that is that there be a tariff that people can sign up for to 7 get time of day pricing. There has to be a tariff. 8 And 9 there has to be time of day meters. That's all you You don't have to have smart mix masters. 10 need. People themselves can schedule those. 11 So, I don't know why we have to imagine this, 12 13 why this isn't already in place. That's one. 14 And then it talks about momentary blackouts 15 have significant impacts with all the electronic 16 equipment. The idea is not to make the grid up 100 17 percent of the time, 24 hours 365. It's you've got a 18 laptop and the laptop switches to the battery to allow

19 your equipment to maybe have a power source. So you can 20 still get -- a person can put up with a two second 21 outage or a three second outage, which happens all the 22 time. It clicks off and back on.

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The idea really is to expand that from the

two seconds, where you can be off the grid for two 1 seconds, to two minutes or two hours. Wouldn't that be 2 3 great? It's not that you have to make the grid up all 4 the time. It's to make the homes or the people be able 5 to continue on even if you are intermittently off, because eventually you want to have storage in the home, 6 7 again, to help this issue of peak load. So those are the two comments in the first 20 8 9 pages or so. So, it's about both related to time of day pricing and peak load management. 10 But then I am glad that you want to have 11 feedback on these things, but I think the people in the 12 audience also would like to have some recognition in 13 these documents that you have heard what we are saying. 14 I don't see anything here about the gloom and 15 doom and the worry on so many people's part that their 16 children will not have a decent world to live in. 17 There's no mention. It's all vibrant private sector 18 dynamic, affordable, clean energy, acknowledging the 19 obstacles outlining the new strategies adapted to future 20 21 insights, progress and many facets. Extreme weather and cyber attacks in the 22 23 draft plan to empower customers, enable the private

sector to provide the services and energy options, the customer value. Nothing at all about the CO2, global warming, end of the world. Some recognition that we are facing a real serious problem.

5 So, now, I want to say a few words about 6 fracking, just because the things you hear people say 7 just to me indicate they don't -- haven't been paying 8 attention.

I am sure -- I don't come to really give you 9 10 any new information, because I am sure you have probably more than I have, but just things that when you hear --11 12 when I hear -- they just sound nuts. You saw Tom Ridge 13 on the Colbert Report saying a lot of things. Things he said. The procedure is safe. They have been doing it 14 for 50 years. Come on. We haven't been doing this for 15 16 50 years to this extent with wells all over. Not to this volume, not this way. 17

18 Chemicals are safe. The whole idea of this 19 being safe, you have got to qualify that. Certainly, 20 gas and oil are not safe or clean. They are potentially 21 dangerous. You have refinery fires and explosions and 22 pollution in the Valdez.

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So, what they must mean is we are coming into

a community that's safe and clean and we are going to 1 put in a closed system and do certain things and get 2 things, but when they come out, they come out only in 3 certain places and we will handle them in a safe way. 4 Energy independence, no. Energy independence 5 from foreign oil, not gas. A step towards independence 6 7 is nuts. Thanks so much. 8 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much for 9 your comment. Robert Ciesielski, followed by James Miller. 10 11 MR. CIESIELSKI: Good morning. .Thanks for coming to Buffalo. I am Bob Ciesielski from the New 12 York State Atlantic Chapter and currently serve as chair 13 14 of the chapter's energy committee. The chapter sees continued investment in 15 16 fossil fuels as incompatible with achieving New York's climate change goals. We see climate change caused in 17 large measure by the use of fossil fuels a catastrophe 18 for New York and the earth. 19 20 This week's USA Today just reported that even as the US has had a bitterly cold January, the last 21 22 month was actually the fourth warmest the world has 23 experienced since 1880.

The Sierra Club sees the rapid development of 1 2 renewable energy, coupled with intensive efforts to 3 further energy efficiency and conservation, as a means of extricating ourselves from a climate change disaster, 4 5 or at least mitigating the consequences. Concerning fossil fuels, the energy plan must 6 recommend enforceable interim steps and targets that 7 will meet the state's goal of reducing all greenhouse 8 9 gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050. The plan at times discusses reduction of only 10 carbon dioxide, especially the discussion of interim 11 targets, but it is essential to include all greenhouse 12 gases, especially gases like methane releases, in your 13 mandates. 14 Methane gas, released by high volume 15 hydrofracking, is at least 72 times more potent a 16 greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide in the first 20 years 17 18 of its release into the atmosphere. 19 Leakage of methane gas of more than two 20 percent makes it more of a dangerous greenhouse gas than Studies by NOAH of methane leakage from high 21 CO2. volume horizontal drilling for gas in western United 22 States shows an annual leakage of between 2.3 percent 23

and 17 percent from drilling, flaring, along the 1 2 pipelines, compressor stations and in storage facilities. 3 A recent study in Science Magazine finds that 4 5 the Environmental Protection Agency has actually widely underestimated the release of methane from fracking. 6 То define methane as "clean energy" is erroneous. 7 The energy plan should define clean energy as 8 that obtained from new renewable energy sources, such as 9 10 wind, solar and water. The state should suspend its support for investment in a gas energy infrastructure in 11 12 order to protect us from climate change and protect our 13 families from fracking. The potential for renewable energy in New 14 15 York State is enormous. We already have the technical 16 ability to create jobs and renewable energy, installation and manufacturing. The proposed solar 17 18 facilities at Riverbend in Buffalo, announced by 19 Governor Cuomo just several months ago, gives a glimpse of the potential for job growth and investments in New 20 21 York. 22 If you are looking to ensure a safe, 23 affordable, reliable source of energy, as mentioned in

1 the plan for our state citizens, look to the study by 2 PJM, the independent systems operator of the electro 3 system for 13 states, including parts of Pennsylvania, 4 Ohio, New Jersey.

5 Last November, PJM found that if 30 percent 6 of its energy production was supplied by the wind power, 7 that its annual production costs for energy would be 8 reduced by \$9 billion, and that its wholesale cost of electricity to consumers would be reduced by \$21 9 10 million, carbon emissions would be reduced by 29 11 percent, and there would be no reliability problems in 12 supply.

We would make the following recommendations, among others. The energy plan should call for immediate commitment to double New York's land based wind power capacity and invest in offshore wind off of Long Island this year.

Extend the renewable portfolio standard in New York to 50 percent of our state's electric from renewable energy sources by the year 2025. Mandate by administrative or executive action purchase of renewable energy by private utilities instead of the current reliance on the strong encouragement to do so.

California's mandate to its three large 1 utility companies to purchase 33 percent of their power 2 from renewable sources by 2020 is working. 3 4 The feed-in tariff for renewable energy sources should also be adopted. A successful trial 5 6 program exists on Long Island. Long term 20 year 7 contracts between energy producers and utilities provide the financial stability to encourage the construction of 8 9 renewable energy facilities and permit private investors 10 to fund renewables. 11 Contract rates are based upon the costs of 12 constructing the energy production unit, together with a 13 fair five to 10 percent profit. In some instances, 14 contract rates are set by bidding process. The feed-in tariff has been used worldwide to 15 16 adequately develop energy manufacturing, investments and 17 jobs. 18 Thank you very much. 19 CHAIRMAN RHODES: James Miller, followed by 20 Pamela Hughes. 21 MR. MILLER: My name is James Samuel Miller. 22 I am just -- I don't represent any group. I am speaking 23 as a retired 80 year old electrical engineer. Got a

wonderful master's degree in electrical engineering from 1 2 NYU Brooklyn Poly. Been around the state ever since. 3 It's a great state. Thank the governor and the organizations 4 5 involved here for providing the feedback on this draft plan. I did submit it in writing, so it's on the 6 7 I would just like to read it. record. 8 These comments are directed to the present 9 draft plan as a whole and not to any one part, because 10 the draft plan as written should be set aside because it 11 is not a plan. It's a very valuable 400 page document, lots of information in it. It's good for reference, but 12 13 it doesn't set forth a step by step plan. 14 Volume one concentrates on working towards 15 using cleaner energy and reducing the use of fossil fuel 16 based sources, which is good. Volume two defines 17 present problems in detail, but no solutions. 18 As stated in volume one, and I quote "Draft 19 2014 New York State Energy Plan sets forth a vision for 20 New York's energy future that connects a vibrant private sector market and communicates with communities and 21 22 individual customers to create a dynamic affordable clean energy economy". 23

1	Words sound good, but there's no plan to get
2	there. It continues to define correctly what the goal
3	should be "renewable power sources, hydro, solar,
4	wind and other carbon free solutions" but there's no
5	plan to achieve that goal.
6	Specifics. Volume one lists two commendable
7	targets to reduce carbon emissions. 50 percent
8	reduction by 2030, just 16 years away, and by 80 percent
9	by 2050, but no step by step plan to get there.
10	The initiatives all beat around the bush and
11	they sound good, but they are misdirected. For example,
12	initiative six wants to modernize the gas delivery
13	systems instead of phasing out this carbon based fuel.
14	Initiative nine wants to expand access to
15	carbon based natural gas and reduce leakage, instead of
16	moving towards solar thermal and geothermal for home and
17	business based heating needs.
18	We should be putting a heavy tax on natural
19	gas, propane and oil use for heating, in order to
20	discourage the growth there, and offering huge financial
21	incentives for use of renewable energy methods to heat
22	our buildings.
23	Initiative 12I talks about improving

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intercity passenger rail service, which is good, but 1 2 nothing about commuter rail systems to reduce passenger automobile commuting traffic emissions. 3 4 And many parts of volume one stress energy efficiency, which is also good, but not one word about 5 6 energy conservation. 7 Buried at the end of volume two, chapter four, is talk about "stimulating growth of the clean 8 energy economy", but it misses the big opportunity for 9 10 producing jobs in clean energy manufacturing sectors of wind and solar. 11 12 Specifically in western New York, empty 13 factories that could re-employ many jobless 14 manufacturing workers who are presently on welfare. Why not initiate a Manhattan style project to design and 15 16 manufacture wind turbine towers and blades right here, not just for use here in western, New York, in New York 17 18 State, but to sell and ship all over eastern US. 19 In Schenectady, a factory is already 20 manufacturing wind turbine electro generators, but the towers and blades are only manufactured out of state and 21 22 trucked here. 23 There is no mention of the FIT financing plan

that spurred the growth and installation of 1 2 photovoltaics on Long Island. We need that kind of 3 financial incentive for the rest of New York. Politics 4 and diverse electric providers are blocking that effort. 5 These are examples of some of the specific 6 things that are needed to develop an actual plan in 7 moving ahead with the timeline for each part of the 8 plan. Put together a limited team of experts from 9 industry, business and government, say about 15 persons 10 total, to write a real 2014 plan for our state, focused 11 on ending reliance on fossil fuels and stressing 12 renewable energy sources, and give them a one month 13 deadline to complete the plan. 14 And last but not least, the plan ought to 15 stay away from the false promises of those promoting 16 hydrofracking technology to produce more natural gas in 17 our state. It's a concept by nuclear power. Cheap upfront, but an economic and environmental nightmare in 18 19 the long run. 20 Thank you. 21 Pamela Hughes, followed by CHAIRMAN RHODES: 22 Patricia Ceravole. 23 MS. HUGHES: Hello. My name is Pamela

Hughes. Thank you for having this commentary. I am
 speaking as a resident of New York State, although I am
 a member of the Sierra Club as well and I share their
 concerns.

I am also speaking because climate change is not a debatable issue on whether global warming exists. Climate change is a fact, and we are speeding toward an unknown future to be sure.

9 The State of New York Energy Plan should be a 10 guide to making energy decisions into the future with 11 visionary perspectives. We look to Governor Cuomo to be 12 a climate leader, but he has missed the mark on this new 13 energy plan that does not even include climate 14 disruption as part of the impetus for a flexible, 15 affordable, clean energy system.

16 This state's energy systems rely upon dirty 17 fossil fuels, like coal, oil and increasingly gas and 18 nuclear power plants.

In addition, specifically in initiative eight, which addresses infrastructure, the provision for natural gas is cited as one priority. This provision, in particular, assumes that natural gas may be the wave of the future in energy resources in New York State, and

1 if monies are invested in the infrastructure, we can 2 certainly assume that lifting the moratorium on fracking 3 in New York State will follow, despite evidence across 4 the country of countless numbers of spills, explosions 5 and water contamination.

If statewide investments are geared toward the fossil fuel industry, then Governor Cuomo has missed the greatest opportunity to make the energy plan a roadmap for a cleaner, safer energy future.

10 This has to change, and change very quickly, 11 if we are to slow down the impact of climate 12 disruptions. The people of New York State deserve a 13 stronger plan to drive investment into renewables like 14 wind, solar, water and geothermal. Upgrading these now 15 will reduce our climate risk, clean up the air, and 16 lower energy costs for families and businesses.

The energy plan should be based on facts and good science, beginning with a good inventory of current greenhouse emissions. Here are some suggestions for strengthening the energy plan.

Number one, initiate plans to retire the unhealthy and uneconomical fossil fuel and nuclear plants, move away from further investments in gas

infrastructure, and protect our families from fracking.
 Eliminate incentives and subsidies for gas, oil and
 nuclear.

Number two, develop plans for a just transition for workers and communities that will be impacted by the closure of fossil fuels and nuclear plants.

8 Number three, put in place effective 9 renewable policies and incentives that have a long 10 enough duration, maybe 10 to 15 years, to ensure market 11 stability, policies like mandated RPS and the feed-in 12 tariff. There is no bridge fuel needed as renewables 13 are doable right now.

14 The governor's own NYSERDA has presented 15 convincing arguments in their renewable energy study. 16 Where did this information go?

Number four, mandate enforceable interim
targets to get on track to meet the state's goal of
reducing greenhouse emissions 80 percent by 2050.

An energy plan for New York State should begin with the acknowledgment of where we are now, both in terms of GHG emissions and the rapidity of climate instability across the globe, including New York State.

Now is the time to act aggressively to 1 2 protect our state, and indeed the earth, from the increasingly hostile climate changes in progress. 3 New York State has a critical role to play, 4 and Governor Cuomo, you are the man in charge of the 5 most crucial moment in the history of humankind. 6 Wе wish you courage to take the right action on behalf of 7 the citizens now and in the future. 8 9 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Patricia Ceravole, followed 10 by Barbara Frackiewitz. MS. CERAVOLE: Good morning. My name is 11 Patricia Ceravole. I am a project coordinator for the 12 13 New York Public Interest Research Group here in Buffalo. 14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the 2014 15 Draft State Energy Plan. NYPIRG is the state's largest non-profit 16 17 student directed consumer and environmental advocacy organization. NYPIRG representatives are speaking on 18 19. different topics at each of the scheduled hearings on 20 the Draft State Energy Plan and will submit formal 21 written comments at another date. 22 I will focus my comments today on the issue 23 of clean energy and energy efficiency in the Draft State

Energy Plan. The plan provides a framework for measuring New York's progress toward a clean and affordable energy system. The plan includes four key metrics -- improved energy affordability, a cleaner environment, robust economic activity, and increased system efficiency.

7 In order for the plan to achieve these four 8 goals, significant increases in renewable production and 9 aggressive improvements in energy efficiency must be 10 cornerstones of the plan. However, the plan fails to 11 establish the concrete clean energy and efficiency goals 12 needed to meet the major metrics of the plan.

13 The plan must maximize renewable energy and 14 energy efficiency, and drop support for massive natural 15 gas expansion to meet New York's energy needs.

With respect to clean energy, the plan talks about coordinating renewable energy policies to strategically harness the many resources that the state can provide, and commit to creating a portfolio of renewable energy programs, the state's commitment through 2025, but it never actually sets any firm targets for clean energy production.

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In fact, the plan forecasts virtually no

1 growth in renewable energy use between 2020 and 2030. 2 This is unacceptable and incongruent with the goals of 3 the plan.

Clearly, more can and must be done in this plan to encourage growth of renewables and cement the place of renewable energy as a cornerstone of New York's clean energy future.

8 The plan must make a larger commitment to 9 renewables to meet its core metric of creating robust 10 economic activity. Every dollar invested in renewable 11 energy production produces three times as many jobs as 12 investing that dollar into fossil fuel production. 13 Making a strong commitment to renewables is making a 14 strong commitment to our economy.

15 One key issue the plan fails to address is 16 the fact that New York is already failing to meet its 17 current commitment through the renewable portfolio 18 standard to meet at least 30 percent of its energy needs 19 through renewable sources by 2015.

This plan must be revised to include specific steps to get New York back on track to meet 30 by 15 renewable energy goals set forth by the RPS.

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The final plan should also set a new 10 year

1 target for renewable energy of meeting 50 percent of the 2 state's electricity demand with renewable energy by 3 2025. New York is moving forward with significant 4 5 build out of solar energy production through the New York Sun program, but another major area where New York 6 7 must improve to get back on track with renewable energy goals is to set a strong commitment to wind energy. 8 New 9 York currently lags far behind states like Iowa, North 10 Dakota, and Texas in wind energy production. The energy plan should include a commitment 11 12 to double New York's land based wind capacity and 13 investing in offshore wind this year. 14 The final plan should also clearly define 15 clean energy and renewable energy. Burning wood is not 16 clean renewable energy. 17 The plan routinely discusses biomass electric 18 generation alongside of clean renewable sources of 19 energy, like wind and solar. Burning wood and trash 20 creates emissions that compromise public health and 21 contribute to climate change. This plan must clearly 22 define clean energy and renewable energy to exclude 23 dirty polluting sources, such as biomass and natural

1	gas.
2	In order to save consumers money, meet our
3	greenhouse gas reduction goals, spur robust economic
4	activity, and improve system efficiencies, this plan
5	must set clear aggressive benchmarks for energy
6	efficiency.
7	Sadly, New York is already failing to meet
8	its existing energy efficiency goals set forth in the
9	energy efficiency portfolio standard of 15 percent
10	reduction in energy demand by 2015. The final plan
11	should address how the state will get back on track to
12	meet this 15 by 15 energy efficiency goal set forth by
13	the EEPS.
14	In addition, the final plan should set a new
15	10 year target for energy efficiency based on historical
16	performance and the various analyses. A goal of meeting
17	roughly 20 percent of forecasted demand in 2025 through
18	energy efficiency should be included in the final plan.
19	The plan mentions having conducted the draft
20	energy efficiency and renewable resource potential in a
21	New York study, the results of which were supposedly in
22	the Draft State Energy Plan. Unfortunately, the public
23	has not seen the potential study, nor has it seen the

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greenhouse gas emissions inventory also referred to in 1 2 the plan. 3 Without access to these studies, the public has no way to assess the relevant assertions and 4 5 conclusions included in the Draft State Energy Plan. 6 NYSERDA should release the potential study, along with 7 the greenhouse gas emissions inventory, for public review as part of the public comment period. 8 9 This plan spends a great deal of time talkind 10 about the value of clean renewable energy, and the 11 importance of efficiency, but fails to set clear goals, benchmarks and concrete plans that are needed to get us 12 13 to the real clean energy future. 14 The plan also was released without public 15 access to critical studies necessary to assess the plan. 16 Unfortunately, the energy forecast provided in the plan 17 shows us that it is business as usual plan. This plan must be strengthened to provide a 18 19 clear roadmap for moving New York toward a clean, efficient energy future. 20 Thank you for the opportunity to testify. 21 22 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you. 23 Barbara Frackiewitz, followed by Frank Gage.

MS. FRACKIEWITZ: Hi. My name is Barbara 1 2 Frackiewitz. I am speaking as a concerned citizen. Alarming news, or it should be alarming news. 3 Air pollution emissions are measured in the tons. 4 I am going to repeat that. Air pollution emissions are 5 measured in the tons. 6 7 A question: How many children, adults will get asthma and cancer from breathing polluted air from 8 fossil fuel emissions? Many other questions could 9 follow, but I'll just keep going here. 10 Alarming news, it should be alarming news. 11 Today across the country water is being contaminated by 12 13 the process of hydraulic fracturing. Surface water, groundwater, and aquifers are being contaminated by tons 14 -- I will repeat that word -- tons of chemicals, and 15 also with radioactivity from hydrofracking. 16 17 And the question is: Is there any technology that can clean this contaminated water? I will repeat 18 the question. Is there any technology that can clean 19 this contaminated water? Does anyone have a guess? I'm 20 going to repeat it a third time. Is there any 21 technology that can clean this contaminated water? 22 23 I am angry. We are angry. The earth is

1 angry.

CHAIRMAN RHODES: Frank Gage, followed byRita Yelda.

MR. GAGE: My name is Frank Gage. I am with Western New York Drilling Defense and the Western New York Peace Center. I am not going to talk about the New York State Energy Plan today. I'm going to talk about the people who are supposed to implement rules once the energy is in place.

First I'm going to share a story with you. It's a true story. Takes me back to Vietnam. I was assigned to a lieutenant on my third day and whose name was Lieutenant Fiff and I was going to be his radioman.

I met him at it was in a Jeep. There was three of us, a lieutenant, the sergeant and myself. I was going down the road. He turned around and explained what my duties would be while I was working for him. And when he got all done, he looked me in the eye and shook my hand. He says, Frank, I will never ask you to do anything I wouldn't do myself.

So, as his radioman in that capacity I
belonged to an eight man team, a command team, at a
company level. And the company commander's attitude was
1	just totally arrogance. He would walk into a hooch to
2	set up a command center and he would tell people what
3	part of the hooch they could go into.
4	He told them whether they could eat or finish
5	their meal. So we do whatever we wanted to do within
6	reason.
7	I really want to talk about is the mentality
8	and the arrogance of the gas company. And the gas
9	industry has the same mentality and arrogance as the
10	military does. They take over somebody's land, they
11	take and destroy whatever they want, and they process,
12	contaminate the land, the crops, the animals, the air
13	and the water.
14	Even though the contamination may not be
15	intentional, the destruction of the farmland, the forest
16	areas certainly is. And the real problem with the gas
17	industry is they never admit their wrongdoing.
18	So, a little while later we set up a base
19	camp in an area called Tan Tru, small village about a
20	mile or so away from the river, and probably about 50
21	people there. And we moved them all out, even including
22	their little fish pond, which is probably about the size
23	of that back panel. There wasn't much, but it was

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2	The bulldozers came in. The trucks came in
3	and just moved everything on the side. This is exactly
4	the mentality the gas company has.

5 So, and one last thing I want to tell you: 6 want you to remember what my lieutenant said to me, he 7 would never ask me to do anything that he wouldn't do 8 himself.

9 Well, Rex Tillerson, the Exxon CEO, the
10 world's biggest fracker, he would frack your backyard,
11 he would frack my backyard, frack next to your
12 children's school, he'll destroy your water well,
13 destroy your aquifer. Your barn animals will die. You
14 will get sick. You might even get cancer.

But don't worry about Rex, old Rex will take care of himself. He joined a lawsuit recently to stop a fracking company, a gas company, from fracking on his land. And the reason was the -- is it a 160 foot water tower? And the property value. He stopped it from going down.

21 So, this is the kind of mentality that they 22 have. They will walk all over you and they don't care. 23 They really don't care.

1	So, thank you.
2	CHAIRMAN RHODES: Rita Yelda, followed by
3	Cornelia Kelley.
4	MS. YELDA: Thank you so much. My name is
5	Rita Yelda. I'm here representing a few organizations
6	today Western New York Drilling Defense, Food and
7	Water Watch, as well as the New Yorkers Against Fracking
8	Coalition but I'm also a concerned Buffalo resident.
9	Despite bold words about clean energy and
10	efficiency, the New York State Energy Plan lacks
11	specific commitments necessary to lead New York to a
12	sustainable future, and instead shows further investment
13	in fossil fuels in our state.
14	Worse still, its forecasts and policies in
15	the plan actually promote the widespread expansion of
16	natural gas produced from fracking and fails to set
17	meaningful targets for the reduction of climate changing
18	greenhouse gas emissions.
19	The plan describes natural gas as a clean
20	energy source. It is not. Fracking, the primary method
21	of gas extraction today, poisons land, air and water,
22	makes people sick, and contributes to climate change.
23	Because much of the draft plan is ambiguously

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written in support of "clean energy", many of its 1 2 initiatives and programs could actually be directed toward expanding the use of fracked gas and its 3 infrastructure, and three initiatives in the plan 4 5 explicitly promote the acceleration and expansion of natural gas, including oil to gas conversion and 6 7 infrastructure for gas transmission and distribution. 8 The document forecasts that natural gas produced in New York will triple by 2030 with the 9 lifting of the state's current moratorium on high volume 10 11 horizontal fracking, seemingly predicting fracking in New York. 12 13 But economic impacts of relying on fossil 14 fuels are largely ignored. Even if fracking is never 15 permitted in New York, the consequence of using more 16 fracked gas will mean greater exposure of people, both 17 in New York and elsewhere, to polluted air and water, fracking waste on roads and in landfills, higher levels 18 19 of radon gas, and the industrialization of our rural 20 areas. 21 The proposed energy plan fails to 22 comprehensively address the many issues relating to 23 emissions, safety and environmental degradation in the

infrastructure, plans to process, store and distribute 1 2 liquified natural gas and petroleum gas, fueling 3 stations, compressor stations and pipelines. The energy plan calls for emission reductions 4 5 of 80 percent by 2050, and 50 percent by 2030. The 2030 6 goal only applies to carbon dioxide, whereas, the 2050 7 goal properly applies to all greenhouse gas emissions. 8 It's imperative that New York State 9 immediately target all greenhouse gases, particularly given that some, like methane, are especially potent in 10 11 the atmosphere in the short term. Meeting the United States Energy Plan's goals 12 13 very clearly requires not fracking in New York. We will hold Governor Cuomo and this energy board responsible to 14 meeting the kind of goals that this plan sets forth, 15 which compel no fracking and move aggressive investment 16 in renewable energy. That's the path to a brighter, 17 healthier future for all New Yorkers. 18 19 We call for more aggressive renewable energy investments and infrastructure for setting emission 20 21 reduction goals for all greenhouse gases by 2030. We want greater details as to exactly how the state will 22 23 meet the goals that are in the energy plan as well, as

the current draft is far too vague on the specifics. 1 2 The plan should also call for greater increases in renewable energy which would make the 3 4 relatively ambitious goals more achievable and would 5 create many more jobs. 6 Further, the energy plan should halt 7 investment in new natural gas expansion and 8 infrastructure, and instead, New York should become a natural leader by transitioning swiftly and boldly to 9 10 renewable energy. 11 Thank you. CHAIRMAN RHODES: Cornelia Kelley, followed 12 13 by Diana Strablow. 14 MS. KELLEY: Good morning. Thank you for 15 giving me the opportunity to speak today. I am a member of Mothers Out Front, an organization dedicated to 16 17 mobilizing mothers around the issue of climate change, so today's children will inherit a livable planet. 18 19 I am here today on behalf of my two daughters, Jessie, age 8, and Martha, age 6. I'm also 20 here on behalf of all children alive today and being 21 born tomorrow. I fear for their future because that 22 23 future now is deeply uncertain.

1	The climate data are crystal clear and stark.
2	Humans burning fossil fuels is causing our planet's
3	climate to change in a dangerous and unpredictable way,
4	in a way that threatens the future of my children, of
5	our children.
6	We must begin swiftly transitioning away from
7	all fossil fuels immediately. This includes natural
8	gas, a greenhouse gas more potent than carbon dioxide.
9	Why invest our resources in more fossil fuel
10	infrastructure?
11	New York State must commit to investing our
12	resources only in a way that ensures today's children
13	inherit a livable planet. This is why the New York
14	State proposed energy plan is deeply flawed.
15	The plan describes natural gas as a clean
16	energy source. It is not. Fracking, the primary method
17	of gas extraction today, poisons land, air and water,
18	makes people sick, and contributes to climate change.
19	Because much of the draft plan is ambiguously
20	written in support of clean energy, many of its
21	initiatives and programs, including the governor's much
22	acclaimed green bank, could actually be directed towards
23	banning the use of fracked gas and its infrastructure.

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In addition, initiatives number six, number 1 2 eight and number nine in the plan explicitly promote the 3 acceleration and expansion of natural gas, including oil 4 to gas conversions and infrastructure for gas 5 transmission and distribution. 6 A few weeks ago I was having a conversation 7 about mandated global climate change with my eight year 8 old daughter, Jessie, and what was happening to our 9 world's planetary climate system because of humans 10 burning fossil fuel. After explaining as best I could, Jessie 11 12 looked at me and said, you know, mom, you are really 13 lucky to have lived 30 years without climate change. My eight year old daughter understands the impact that 14 climate change has for her future. 15 16 It's up to me and everyone making decisions 17 that impact her future to fight for an energy plan that commits to swift transition away from all fossil fuels. 18 19 We have the tools and the resources to do this. What we need is our political leaders to make the 20 21 right energy choices. 22 Thank you. 23 Diana Strablow, followed by CHAIRMAN RHODES:

1 David Bradley.

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2	MS. STRABLOW: My name is Diana Strablow.
3	Thank you for being here today to hear us. And I am
4	here as a citizen of New York State, of this country, of
5	this planet, and also as a member of the Sierra Club.
6	I joined the Sierra Club's energy committee
7	about a year ago to try to work to promote alternative
8	energy. I did that because about seven years ago I
9	personally awakened to the fact of climate change.
10	It started out with concern, and then as I
11	did more and more reading over those seven years, and
12	watching clips of scientists and films of scientists, I
13	have watched the scientists move from concern to alarm.
14	And my own emotions have also moved from
15	concern to alarm as we have watched in those seven
16	years I have seen compressed what scientists thought
17	might happen in 30 years, 50 years, maybe a hundred
18	years, it's now happening. It's happening now. And
19	this plan does not address that issue.
20	Our window of time is rapidly closing. Two
21	or three years ago I started reading that scientists
22	were saying we have a window of 10 years to do something
23	about climate change. Beyond that, we may have no hope

1 of doing anything. That was two or three years ago. 2 The time is now, and we need to move to a 3 complete renewable energy future. The ability is there. 4 New York State can lead the way. 5 According to the Intergovernmental Panel on 6 Climate Change, methane is up to 86 times more potent as 7 a greenhouse gas than CO2. If we are serious about 8 attacking climate change, we need to not build the 9 infrastructure for natural gas in the state. We need to 10 be moving entirely to renewable energy. 11 Iowa has, in merely six years, moved from six 12 percent wind energy to in 2012 they are producing 24.7 13 percent of their energy from wind. Why can't New York State do this? 14 15 We need wind. We need solar energy. We need 16 geothermal energy. We do not need natural gas. 17 Thank you. 18 CHAIRMAN RHODES: David Bradley, followed by 19 Heather Connor. 20 MR. BRADLEY: My name is David Bradley, I'm a 21 member of the Buffalo Wind Action Group. 22 Imbedded in the energy plan is the illusion 23 that financial, ecological and climate fraud that are

methane and fracking are sensible. And in reality, fracking for methane is like going after the dregs of a once plentiful North American BC methane reserves. It's like an alcoholic dumpster diving for that mostly empty booze bottle to get that one last fix.

We in New York should have a better vision for our energy future than that. And so, this bland and mostly useless New York Energy Plan needs to be recycled ASAP. If implemented, we face the same prospects as that ethenol addict going after their last swigs of their affliction.

We could easily power up New York's 12 electricity system with all renewables within a decade 13 of affordable prices. After all, we start off at 20 14 percent renewables mostly via Great Lakes electricity. 15 The vast majority of the remaining 80 percent 16 could easily be supplied by mostly onshore wind turbine 17 coupled with pumped hydro storage within New York, plus 18 some grid connections to Quebec and the Canadian 19 Maritimes. 20

21 Some of our wind energy could be provided by 22 offshore wind turbines, mostly at the southern 23 coastline, and although these will always be more

expensive than onshore wind, sometimes location matters. 1 2 We could provide most of the heat and cooling we need via mostly ground sourced heat pumps, or GSHP, 3 and biomass based central district heating. 4 The oil industry will be more of a difficult 5 Some electricity, more mass transit, and a lot 6 problem. Those more biomass to liquid fuels will be needed. 7 8 biomass fuels would be made possible as oil prices continue on average to double every five years, which 9 they have since 1998 as a result of peak world oil 10 exports that happened in 2006. And after all, things 11 grow prolifically in New York. 12 Renewable electrical energy is the central 13 feature of price predictability. We know what the price 14 of wind based electricity will be for the next 25 years 15 based on the cost to buy and install these systems and 16 the associated price of money used to finance these 17 systems. 18 We have absolutely no way of knowing what the 19 price of oil and methane will be five, 10 or 20 years 20 from now except for the general descriptor of more. 21 Enforcing this fossil fuel continual pricing system on 22 to renewables actually makes renewables more expensive 23

1 than otherwise would be, as it increases the financial 2 risks and the costs that go with the loans and 3 investment money.

However, if we do not change the way we price electricity, very little of this renewable energy development will take place. Instead, we will suffer the fate of most addicts, in our case methane and crude oil, as we continue a downward spiral until the pushers who supply our fossil fuel sources no longer assume our credit has any value.

We cannot have a viable and renewable 11 electricity system if we continue to sell the product 12 that can't make a profit, that's for the private 13 industry option, or break even for public ownership. It 14 is sheer idiocy to base the price of renewable 15 electricity not on the cost to make this electricity, 16 but instead on the price of coal and natural gas, with 17 the difference perhaps supplied by taxpayers by tax 18 appointed based subsidies or sales taxes. 19

If New York were actually serious about renewable energy, they would end the NYISO casino pricing system for renewable electricity, but leave that for the pollution sourced based electricity of natural

1 gas, coal and nukes.

2	This will rapidly remove the profitability
3	from pollution sourced electricity, and without the
4	profitability for pollution sourced electricity, such
5	operations will shut down, and that would be a good
6	thing.

7 The reasonable profit rate for renewables 8 that a sensible pricing system would require may chase 9 away a lot of investable monies, as present owners of 10 this money are generally not interested in reasonable 11 rates of return

However, other options are possible for the people of New York State, and private industry, private capital, can participate or go elsewhere. When it finds nowhere else to go it will come back, and then we just have to ask it what rate we want to have it buy.

17 All we need is basically a same pricing 18 system for electricity in New York State and sensible 19 procurement policies for NYPA and LIPA. To focus 20 attention on the technology capable of delivering 21 electricity to New York at its lowest cost, which is low 22 wind speed turbines on tall towers, can be done at some 23 very low percentage of benefits of this approach. 1 It takes close to \$200,000 somewhere, and the 2 trick would be to get them for New Yorkers. The wind 3 turbine pumped hydro approach will require about 120 4 billion in investment, and would be repeated over to 20 5 to 40 years. And the use of ground sourced heat pumps 6 would require another hundred billion.

7 What private industry and what group of 8 businesses wouldn't like a crack at a \$200, \$250 billion 9 market? That's actually where the jobs are. By using 10 long term low interest loans and capital, it's 11 affordable.

But if we insist on the casino style NYISO spot market, location based, marginal system we will get none of that. Nobody will invest in renewables if you don't know what the price of your product is going to be two years or five years or 30 years ahead.

17 It just doesn't make sense, and instead you 18 end up having to have loan shark type loans in order to 19 deal with the uncertainty that's present from unknown 20 and unknowable future electricity prices.

21 So, to conclude, if we don't get rid of this 22 pricing system for renewables, we won't have any 23 renewables, and as a result, more and more New Yorkers

1	will face the non-viable future where jobs associated
2	with making renewable energy systems go to our neighbors
3	in Quebec and Ontario, who actually have sane energy
4	pricing systems.
5	And we also need to have a respect for
6	manufacturing as a wealth creator, and not just a host
7	for paracytic financiers who want to extract as much
8	money as possible.
9	Thank you very much.
10	CHAIRMAN RHODES: Heather Connor.
11	MS. CONNOR: Thanks for being here. And we
12	can do this. We are here to help you. I am a concerned
13	citizen about climate crises, and particularly about
14	production of large production of natural gas in New
15	York State and hydrofracking.
16	But this past week I have been thinking a lot
17	about what it would really look like and feel like to
18	live in a fossil fuel free world. And I think that
19	that's the kind of vision that we have to think fast
20	about.
21	And I heard this analogy recently. 160 years
22	ago in the United States very few people could envision
23	a world with an economy not fueled by slavery, and 10,

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1	13 years later, after much sacrifice, we really changed
2	a lot.
3	And I think that's really an important
4	analogy, because right now we are approaching a big
5	crisis and we need to deal with that in less than 10
6	years.
- 7	So, I think I appreciate a lot of the
8	incentives for going to renewables that the New York
9	State new energy plan has touched on, but the reliance
10	on natural gas as a bridge fuel is not a sustainable
11	thing. And it's not I don't think that's going to
12	work. And I really feel that we can do a lot more more
13	quickly without that.
14	And I also want to just leave you with one
15	thing. At the last DEC hearing about hydrofracking in
16	New York State, I wanted to read what our New York State
17	Constitution says about protecting the environment. I
18	didn't get a chance to do that. I'm going to do that
19	now, because it's the closest we come to seeing the
20	environment has the same rights as we do.
21	And I see the emancipation of our environment
22	as a very important thing. Until we do that, we are
23	going to be in trouble.

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1	This is Article VIII. I'm going to start
2	with .5 of Article VIII, the capacity of the
3	environment. And it is the intent of the legislature
4	that the government of the state take immediate steps to
5	identify any critical thresholds for the health and
6	safety of the people of the state, and take all
7	coordinated actions necessary to prevent such thresholds
8	from being reached.
9	It is the intent and now it goes to part
10	8. It is the intent of the legislature that all
11	agencies conduct their affairs with the awareness that
12	they are stewards of the air, water, land and living
13	resources, and that they have an obligation to protect
14	the environment for the use and enjoyment for this and
15	all future generations.
16	Part 9. It is the intent of the legislature
17	that all agencies which regulate activities of
18	individuals, corporations and public agencies, which are
19	found to affect the quality of the environment, shall
20	regulate such activities so that due consideration is
21	given to preventing environmental damage.
22	So, we are all in the right direction, but we
23	really need to speed up the process. That's my main

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1	point is that we cannot use fossil fuels as a bridge.
2	Thank you.
3	CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.
4	Charlie Bowman, followed by Bill Novak.
5	MR. BOWMAN: Thank you for holding this
6	hearing. My name is Charlie Bowman. I am chair of the
7	Renewable Energy Task Force of the Western New York
8	Peace Center. Western New York Peace Center has 400
9	members in western New York and it's a 47 year old
10	organization.
11	And to underscore my organizational skills, I
12	left my notes at home, so I'm going to be speaking from
13	memory.
14	I draw your attention to this piece of paper,
15	New York Independent System Operator load capacity data
16	for the last six or seven years. We can calculate how
17	much clean energy we have been doing in New York State,
18	and it's been frozen.
19	If you look at the bottom of the paper, the
20	percent of total generation has been frozen at roughly
21	20 percent 20, 21, 23 percent. The highest was 24
22	percent, and it fluctuates. And the last two years for
23	2013 which really means 2012 for the NYISO report, as

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1	you well know actually went down.
2	Our clean energy production as a percent of
3	total generation went down by one percent. Our fossil
4	fuels went up, mostly by natural gas. And we really
5	don't know how much natural gas we burn in New York
6	State. It could be off by a huge factor. And we have
7	to get NYISO to report exactly how much natural gas we
8	are burning in New York State.
9	It's a huge number, as you can see, in terms
10	of gigawatt hour reduction. It could be 8,500 gigawatts
11	of power equivalent or 63,000, and I would encourage you
12	to call NYISO tomorrow morning when you get back to
13	Albany, and say, what the hell is going on with natural
14	gas?
15	Coal, thank you for burning 4,000 gigawatts
16	hours less coal. I congratulate you for doing that.
17	And nuclear energy. We produced less electricity for
18	nuclear energy than any time in the last seven years.
19	We need targets for the New York State Energy
20	Plan. The New York State Energy Plan is a New York
21	State methane plan. There's no numbers in the plan.
22	It's all pablum. It's eye candy. And we need targets.
23	And I draw your attention to Mark Jacobson's

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1	paper, who I gave you a copy of that, and that's the
2	plan for in 17 years we can produce all our electrical
3	energy from renewable sources.
4	And we need to be building wind, the
5	equivalent of 1100 megawatts of wind power every year.
6	We only have 1600 or so megawatts right now producing a
7	wonderful three terawatts of power annually.
8	I mean we need to be doing that every year,
9	around 1100. To get to the solar photovoltaic target,
10	we need to be building around 2000 megawatts of PV every
11	year.
12	We need to be doing that now, because in 17
13	years the Arctic sea ice will disappear for 365 days.
14	Then what the hell happens to our ocean currents? What
15	happens to Europe? What happens to Long Island? The
16	important things in the world.
17	So, we don't know where our food growing
18	areas in the world will be in 20, 22 years. That's
19	within everybody's lifetime here. So, we have to stop
20	this nonsense of not making any targets in any plans
21	that we are making.
22	We need specific targets. We need how many
23	megawatts every year to be built. We need money being

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1	thrown at that. NYPA has \$3 billion in the bank sitting
2	there, and they could generate a little bit more power
3	out of Niagara Falls, and fund just transition.
4	We fuel our local tax bases with fossil fuel
5	burning, and we have to support that tax base as we
6	transition into renewables. And Niagara Falls I will
7	be submitting a written thing to underscore all the
8	stuff I am saying. Niagara Falls really is a beautiful
9	source to fund just transition, and to support our
10	teachers and our people thrown out of work for
11	retraining or retirement, as the case may be.
12	So, let's get our butts going on renewable
13	energy now.
14	CHAIRMAN RHODES: Bill Nowak, followed by
15	Dave Hollen.
16	MR. NOWAK: Thanks so much for taking the
17	time to be here today out of your schedules. I know
18	it's a sacrifice.
19	I agree with Mr. Miller's early assessment
20	that there's a lot of good information in here and in
21	the written comments. I'm going to talk more about
22	that, but I do not think that there's a plan that's
23	going to get us to 80 percent reduction by the year

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1	2050. I just don't see that here.
2	I wanted to give you seven what I think are
3	bold moves that if they were in this plan they would
4	help us get there. At this point I don't think this is
5	an ambitious plan as outlined.
6	The first one is commit to banning fracking
7	in New York State. New York has been a leader in
8	holding off fracking. I think it should be clear to
9	you, from what you have heard this morning and probably
10	all across the state, that it's at best a really
11	controversial way to go forward, and at worst it could
12	be a disaster. Let's pull the trigger. Let's ban
13	fracking.
14	The second point is to make an RPS that
15	actually requires utilities to produce so much of their
16	electricity renewably. It's done in 10 states across
17	the country. In New York State's latest report on the
18	RPS we are only at 46 percent of our goal. We are kind
19	of faltering at that level after seven or 10 years of a
20	10 year program. We are failing with our RPS. We could
21	have success if you put it on the utilities and made it
22	mandatory.
23	The third piece is the feed-in tariff.

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There's one section in the report that talks about a project that created 300 jobs, and that's great. We should focus on those things. But to get real, in Ontario, in June of 2013, running from 2009 to 2013, the Ontario government says that they have created 31,000 jobs with their feed-in tariff.

7 We have not in New York State looked at the 8 energy transition as a way to make our economy hum, as a 9 way to redo our manufacturing base. It could be that. 10 Ontario is doing it. We should look at that.

Number four, commit to doubling onshore wind 11 by 2018, and start offshore wind in New York State. 12 Solar is very good, but wind is where the intense 13 generation happens, where the real gains that we have 14 made in the RPS have been in the area of wind. It's a 15 much more effective technology at this point. We need 16 all the technologies we can get, but wind is our best 17 Please go after that. 18 source.

Number five, set a just transition policy.
We saw down in Dunkirk a disastrous situation. New York
State is going to have to be closing coal plants. It's
going to have to be transitioning communities. There
are ways to use requests for proposals that specifically

require workers from plants to be hired in generating 1 new energy sources, and then also providing the tax base 2 maybe on a receding basis so that communities aren't 3 left with jobs blackmail when a coal plant closes. 4 5 Number six, look at what Denmark has done. In 2013, they banned the use of fossil fuels in new 6 7 building construction. This is a radical move, but it's something that is possible. If we are looking to phase 8 out natural gas use, it's something we can do. I'm 9 going to talk a little bit more about geothermal energy, 10 and I think that's the way to go for buildings. 11 Number seven, take a much closer look at 12 13 creating wealth in our communities. There is a lot of talk about private investment. Don't be shy about 14 public investment. It would be great to have a publicly 15 funded wind project in Lake Erie that was providing us 16 with low cost energy at the lowest possible cost. 17 There are also programs, such as community 18 solar, net metering, remote net metering, expanding that 19 20 in New York State. And PACE funding, property assessed clean energy is something we are going to be looking at 21 here in Erie County, and it really should spread across 22 the state. That's a way of keeping wealth in our 23

1	communities and not sending it back out of New York
2	State.
	State.
3	I wanted to focus really quickly on two
4	things that are foolish in this plan. One is to talk
5	about electric bills as being a main goal, reducing
6	electric goals. We use energy for transportation, for
7	heating and for electric uses in our homes. In the
8	future, all three of those, as I see it, are going to be
9	done with electricity. We can't reduce just electric
10	bills. We need to look at energy bills as a whole.
11	The second piece is the focus on natural gas.
12	We have to get off natural gas with this plan. In terms
13	of geothermal, 46 percent of the sun's energy is
14	adsorbed by the earth. It is possible to use that to
15	heat our homes in the winter and to cool our homes in
16	the summer. It can be a heat source in the winter and a
17	heat sink in the summer.
18	A lot of what the plan looks at is peak
19	energy use and the negative impact that it is on our
20	electric utilities. Geothermal can really go a long way
21	toward helping to bridge that gap, because it increases
22	electricity use in the winter and it cuts electricity
23	use for heating and cooling because it is so efficient.

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1	There are about seven million building units
2	in New York State. About five percent of them need to
3	be replaced each year. As we start transitioning to
4	geothermal, we can get to zero net energy in our
5	building in 20 years.
6	Thank you.
7	CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.
8	Dave Hollen, followed by Susan Hughes-Smith.
9	MR. HOLLEN: Good morning. My name is Dave
10	Hollen. I am a resident of Amherst and a member of
11	AARP, who I'm representing today. I would like to thank
12	you for the opportunity to speak with you.
13	AARP has over 2.6 million members here in New
14	York State. Our membership starts at age 50, and we
15	have a considerable number who live on fixed incomes,
16	mostly on social security.
17	However, access to affordable electric and
18	gas services are important to all of our members who pay
19	skyrocketing utility bills every month. As you know, we
20	here in New York State pay some of the highest utility
21	rates in the country.
22	This past April, AARP surveyed New York State
23	residents and found that about three quarters of the

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people polled were concerned about the rising cost of their utility bills. As such, AARP is pleased to see that the energy affordability is discussed on page 56 of the New York State Energy Plan.

One of the stated goals of the report is, 5 "Keep New York residential customer electric bills as a 6 7 percentage of household income at or below the national average". However, this national average percentage of 8 household median income is not defined. It is unclear 9 whether this is a meaningful measure of affordability. 10 Further, a concurrent goal is to reduce this percentage 11 for low income households. Again, vague. 12

AARP believes that these goals should be more well defined and a baseline set for which to work. The ability of New York families to pay their utility bills is crucial. Clear objectives must be established to move New York State forward as a state where people can live and age with independence and dignity.

There is another issue directly impacting consumer rates and affordability that the New York State Energy Plan does not address, which is the lack of independent utility advocacy for residential customers. New York State has no independent consumer voice sitting

at the table when energy policy is being developed. 1 More than 40 states and the District of Columbia have 2 independent state offices whose mission is to advocate 3 on behalf of residential utility service consumers. 4 These offices typically appear as parties in 5 state and federal regulatory commission proceedings and 6 7 in judicial review proceedings concerning rates and conditions of public service utilities. They typically 8 have independent authority to commence proceedings and 9 to take legal positions that are different from those of 10 utilities and their regulators, and to seek judicial 11 review of state and federal regulatory agency decisions. 12 New York State's support for utility consumer 13 advocacy has dwindled to the point that New York 14 consumers, who pay some of the highest utility rates in 15 the country, lack full and independent representation in 16 major matters affecting the reliability and 17 affordability of essential utility services. 18 New York's support for this function also 19 lags in comparison with other states' allocations of 20 resources for utility consumer. 21 In addition, AARP's review of the annual 22 report of New York's investor-owned utilities show that 23

1	utility companies recover the approximate \$10 million
2	they spend per year to support their rate increase and
3	other regulatory requests by passing along the expense
4	to the ratepayers.
5	This totals about 43 million that the
6	utilities have sent to their customers from 2009 to
7	2012. Essentially, residential ratepayers like me are
8	paying to propose, and everyone in this room, and then
9	defend, increases in their own rates.
10	In contrast, we have little to no
11	representation at the PSC during rate proceedings, even
12	though we are paying the legal bills of the party that
13	was trying to raise our rates.
14	Governor Cuomo's own Moreland Act Commission
15	rightly noted that an uneven playing field exists here
16	in New York when it comes to consumer representation.
17	AARP believes Robert Abrams, co-chairman of
18	the Moreland Act Commission, and former Attorney General
19	in New York, summed it correctly when he stated, "The
20	implementation of the Commission's recommendations will
21	create the opportunity for a stronger safety net for New
22	Yorkers in the event of future storms, provide for more
23	consumer protection for utility customers who
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historically have been disadvantaged by a lack of a 1 level playing field, and will bring to justice those who 2 transgressed by violating New York's ethics laws". 3 Thank you very much. 4 5 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you. Susan Hughes-Smith, followed by Kate 6 7 Fittipaldi. MS. HUGHES-SMITH: Thank you for being here. 8 I came today really to speak on behalf of my five 9 children and many friends. 10 There was a time when powerful voices said it 11 was impossible to end slavery, when reasonable voices 12 claimed the economy could not manage without this source 13 of cheap energy. Courageous men and women stood up to 14 oppose that view, these abolitionists knew such a system 15 was immoral. 16 Today, there are powerful forces that say it 17 is impossible to end the use of fossil fuels, and 18 reasonable voices claim the economy cannot manage 19 without this source of cheap energy. But courageous men 20 and women are standing up to oppose that view, because 21 this system is also immoral. 22 A continued dependency on fossil fuels hurts 23

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1	people today. According to the National Academy of
2	Science, every year 53,000 Americans die prematurely,
3	hundreds of thousands are made ill, and the nation
4	spends \$120 billion on the associated healthcare costs
5	of air pollution.
6	A continued dependency on fossil fuels will
7	hurt people tomorrow. It is creating multiple
8	simultaneous ecologic catastrophes that will threaten
9	life as we know it.
10	The ocean is acidifying, the phytoplankton
11	that supply half the world's oxygen has declined by 40
12	percent, the sub-sea methane trap is beginning to leak
13	through its icy cap, threatening to accelerate the
14	atmospheric warming. Climate chaos is upon us.
15	As Elizabeth Kolbert so eloquently states in
16	her book, "It may seem impossible to imagine that a
17	technologically advanced society could choose, in
18	essence, to destroy itself, but that is what we are in
19	the process of doing".
20	Natural gas is not a bridge fuel; it is more
21	of the same. A policy based on natural gas is a
22	shortcut on the road to destruction. With natural gas
23	prices forecast to rise 20 to 40 percent, and gasoline

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1	prices to rise by 110 percent by 2030, it is also
2	shortsighted economically.
3	However, it is possible to take a different
4	path. It is possible to build a bridge to the future,
5	and it is with an energy system built on renewable
6	energy.
7	An independent study was conducted to
8	determine the technical and economic feasibility of
9	shifting New York State to an energy infrastructure
10	relying on wind, water and solar for all of our energy
11	needs.
12	Professor Jacobson from Stanford University
13	has recently published his plan in the journal Energy
14	Policy. Under his plan, New York State end use demand
15	would decrease by 37 percent because of gains in
16	production efficiency. Energy prices would stabilize as
17	fuel costs would be zero.
18	Jobs would be created within our state, as
19	all of our energy needs would be produced locally. Air
20	pollution deaths would decline in our state by 4,000
21	people per year, and the healthcare costs could decline
22	by \$33 billion a year. That's three percent of our
23	state's GDP that we are currently wasting.

The expense of this plan would be paid in 1 savings within 17 years, and that is before you account 2 3 for the sale of electricity. Now is the time to act. Now is the time to 4 5 change course. New Yorkers speak the truth, and the Any truth is we must abolish the use of fossil fuels. 6 7 other choice is certainly immoral. MS. FITTIPALDI: My name is Kate Fittipaldi. 8 I'm from Pittsford, New York. And I am a concerned 9 10 citizen. I would just like to briefly comment on the 11 plan's description of natural gas as a clean energy 12 13 source. It's almost as if the plan is marketing natural gas as a clean energy source, but it is not. 14 I have been involved in the anti-fracking 15 movement since my son was born six years ago, and to my 16 horror, I have learned it has poisoned air, land and 17 water. And it's directly opposing any progress you will 18 make with targeted reducing of emissions. 19 This is a logical conclusion that I, as a 20 21 music teacher and a mom can make, and I'm hoping you can 22 make it, too. Please abandon fracking in your energy plan 23

1.	and support renewables. Thank you.
2	CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.
3	Judy Fitzgerald, followed by Sharon Daly. We
4	will take a break after Sharon Daly.
5	MS. FITZGERALD: Good morning, and thank you
6	for being here.
7	New York State Energy Plan forecasts and
8	promotes the widespread expansion of natural gas
9	produced from fracking and doesn't even set real targets
10	for the reduction of climate changing greenhouse gas
11	emissions.
12	Meanwhile, power generation from wind and
13	solar more than doubled in New York State between 1990
14	and 2012, however, the documents forecast weak, anemic
15	growth and renewable energy dropping to nothing by 2020.
16	Why is it not aggressively supporting the clean energy
17	sources of wind and solar?
18	The plan describes natural gas as a clean
19	energy source. Fracking poisons land, air and water,
20	causes illness, and contributes to climate change. It
21	is a known fact that people in Pennsylvania and other
22	states have become ill due to the water contamination
23	from fracking.

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Jim Morris, from the Center for Public 1 Integrity, was interviewed on PBS News Hour last week 2 3 and reported that there has been very little attention paid to contamination of the air from fracking. 4 5 They investigated 300 complaints of illness from people located near the fracking sites at Eagle 6 7 Ford Shale in south Texas, where there are 8,000 wells in operation. 8 9 Their symptoms are consistent with those associated with exposure to poisonous chemicals such as 10 benzene, which can cause cancer, sulfur dioxide, 11 associated with lung problems, hydrogen sulfide, which 12 13 can cause chronic illness or death in high

14 concentrations. These chemicals are associated with 15 fracking.

In a study presented at the annual meeting of 16 17 the American Economic Association in Philadelphia, researchers from Columbia University, Princeton and MIT 18 looked at Pennsylvania birth records from 2004 to 2011 19 to assess the health of infants born within 2.5 20 21 kilometer radius of natural gas fracking sites. They found the proximity to fracking 22 increased the likelihood of low birth weight by more 23
1	than half, from about 5.6 percent to more than 9
2	percent.
3	My second point, the contribution that
4	fracking makes to climate change. Executive Order
5	number 24 by former Governor Paterson requires that by
6	2050 New York State reduce total emissions 80 percent
7	from 1990 levels.
8	While acknowledging this, the draft plan only
9	commits to measuring the reduction of one greenhouse
10	gas, carbon dioxide, before 2030, ignoring the
11	significant impacts of methane, the primary component of
12	fracked gas.
13	According to the Intergovernmental Panel on
14	Climate Change, methane is 34 times more potent a
15	greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide over 100 years, and
16	86 more times over 20 years.
17	A 2011 published study by Cornell University
18	calculates the climate impact of unconventional natural
19	gas extraction. Though carbon dioxide is the best known
20	of the greenhouse gases, methane gas can have an even
21	more powerful effect.
22	The study's findings included: Between 3.6
23	and 7.9 percent of the methane escapes into the

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1 atmosphere during shale gas production due to venting 2 and well leaks; this level is at least 30 percent higher 3 than that released during conventional natural gas 4 production.

5 On a 20-year horizon, the greenhouse gas 6 footprint for shale gas is up to 43 percent more than 7 conventional natural gas, 50 percent greater than oil, 8 and 20 percent higher than coal for the same amount of 9 energy produced by each of those sources.

The researchers conclude that the large greenhouse gas footprint of shale gas undercuts the logic of using it as a bridge fuel over coming decades, if the goal is to reduce global warming.

The plan contains no analysis to determine a mix of energy sources that will meet carbon reduction goals, and makes no commitment about what percentage of New York's energy will come from renewables.

In 2013, a team of scientists and economists issued a report analyzing how New York could switch entirely to renewables for power by 2030; however, the draft plan contains no mention of this.

22 The plan predicts major growth in natural23 gas. By using dubious forecasts to guide future policy,

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the plan becomes little more than a self-fulfilling 1 2 prophecy of failure. 3 Governor Cuomo's energy plan should chart a 4 course for the future as necessary with aggressive targets for renewable energy that will free New York of 5 its addiction to fossil fuels. 6 7 Thank you. 8 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Sharon Daly. 9 MS. DALY: This will be very short. I am Sharon Daly, a UB emeritus or alumna. Not alumna. 10 Ι 11 didn't qo to school here. I actually went to school in Ohio, so I know something about what's happening in 12 13 Ohio. So, again, I'm speaking against the natural gas 14 parts of this plan. 15 I am hoping that you will consider adding to your revision of this plan, examining the feasibility of 16 17 converting New York State's all purpose energy infrastructure to one using wind, water and sunlight. 18 19 Many authors. And I hear that you have been 20 given a sample of this report. Mark Jacobson from 21 Stanford is a civil and environmental engineer. And at the end of the long line of many people from New York 22 23 State professors is Anthony Ingraffea from Cornell

University, who is also a civil engineer and 1 2 environmental engineer. I have heard him speak, but I don't see any 3 reference to any of the things I have heard from Mark or 4 5 from Dr. Ingraffea in your report. And I would like to see the report separate 6 7 out methane, and I would like to see the report going away from fossil fuels. I am encouraged by the report 8 that you will read and add to your next revision by Mark 9 Jacobson and Dr. Anthony Ingraffea, and I hope that you 10 11 do call upon them. And also, here at UB, I'm so glad that you 12 13 are meeting here because just across the road is our 14 solar stream. And this is a very windy campus. One of 15 these days I expect that we are going to put up a turbine. Whoever here does do turbine duty, you should 16 17 approach UB for that because we have got wind to spare. We have turbines out in Lake Erie, and they 18 19 have been increasing over the years and I want to see I want to see the offshore wind turbines in your 20 more. report that you will read from Mark Jacobson for 21 22 offshore wind turbines. 23 If you look at Maine, they have built

offshore turbines, wind turbines, 20 miles out, so that 1 2 you can't see them from the shore. That solved all the 3 problems with tourists. And they are not tethered. They are like 4 5 many of the ones in Denmark and in northern European countries that are put in the ocean or in bays. They 6 7 are not tethered. So that when the wind comes, like 8 Sandy, they will bend. And it is an exciting possibility, and we 9 have lots of manufacturing technology in the state. You 10 can put people to work with this technology, but please 11 get us off natural gas. 12 13 Thank you. 14 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you. 15 We will take a 10 minute break, and when we return, Lucinda Haag and then Darren Cooper. 16 17 (Recess taken.) Thank you, everybody. 18 CHAIRMAN RHODES: We will resume with Lucinda Haag and then 19 Darren Cooper will be following that. 20 MS. HAAG: It's still good morning so I will 21 say good morning and thank you for being here to hear 22 23 our comments. I am Cindy Haag and I live in

Spencerport, near Rochester. I am also a breast cancer 1 I hope and pray that that will be my only 2 survivor. experience with cancer. This plan makes me wonder about 3 my future. 4 5 I have a number of concerns about this energy document, including the reliance on fossil fuels, the 6 dangers of methane and benzene, the lack of adequate 7 support for green energy, and the resulting hastening of 8 9 climate change. In addition, residents living in areas 10 affected by fracking, either directly or by proximity to 11 facilities accepting fracking waste, experience a 12 13 severely damaged environment. 14 At the heart of my concerns are the young adults my husband and I are proud to have raised. 15 Thev are 22 and 24. We want New York State to be a safe 16 17 place for them to live and raise children of their own. They aren't statistics, charts or 18 They are people. Just two people, two 19 predictions. young people, but they are two of many, many whose 20 future hangs in the balance. 21 I urge Governor Cuomo and all decision 22 23 makers, please don't lose sight of the fact that these

decisions affect people's lives, and more importantly, 1 their futures. 2 You have heard many examples of other states 3 and countries that have made significant progress toward 4 renewable green energy production. I'm sure you will 5 There are studies published and plans 6 hear more. The possibilities are real. The technology 7 suggested. is there. Clean renewable energy is the only choice. 8 9 Thank you. CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much. 10 Darren Cooper, to be followed by Robert 11 Jones. 12 13 MR. COOPER: My name is He Who Thunders. Ι 14 reside along the Allegheny River in the Cattaraugus 15 territory, in the Allegheny territory, Cattaraugus 16 County. 17 I am here to remind you people of our responsibility, our responsibility that we have to our 18 mother, to our mother earth. That we are all brothers 19 and sisters. 20 That we have come to this point in time where 21 now it's becoming an issue where these natural resources 22 23 are being taken for the profit and for the -- I am

1 sorry. I am having a difficult time with this because 2 this is not only a personal issue but it's an issue that 3 goes deeply within me.

It sickens me to know that you guys want to blatantly rape our mother, the one that has provided for us since the beginning of time. These natural resources are there for her existence, not for our profit or not for our personal gain, not for self preservation.

9 These things aren't intended to be sold or 10 distributed in such a way. They are very detrimental 11 for what you are trying to accomplish.

I see you gentlemen here all have cups of 12 13 water in front of you. Do you appreciate water that you drink? Do you know that water sustains your life? You 14 are also aware of the millions of gallons that are used 15 to fracture the shale that is pumped into these 16 environments, that you are gaining these chemicals that 17 is put into this water to extract this gas from its 18 19 location.

But you also need to be aware that this water sustains your life, that the water that is used to obtain this gas cannot be used again. It cannot be cleaned. There is no filter that has been made to clean 1 this water in any way.

2	And it's I apologize again. This is a
3	very difficult issue for me. I am doing my best to
4	maintain my composure and to maintain the inner feelings
5	that I feel in regards to what's going on and what you
6	guys are proposing.

You guys are flashing these papers around and try to persuade the communities, the people, the public at large, to believe that this approach -- what you are doing to our mother -- is a good thing. That you need to -- I am very sorry.

We were all given this responsibility since the beginning of time. May I remind you that you are also here, that you are all just guests here. That you all have come to our territory, and these lands that were taken from us, we also assume the responsibility for the perpetuating for the continuance of these lands which you are not abiding by.

You are looking for the quick fix. You are looking for the opportunity to provide for these people for profit for personal gain. That's the only reason why you are examining and looking to these different options of the harvest of any kind of natural resources 1 that are available.

In time, these are going to be expended. There is going to be nothing left for anybody to heat, to power their vehicles, with the electric, any and all of that.

I just feel so strongly that this is 6 7 something that we should not be exploring. If anything, they should be doing for the maintenance of the self 8 sustaining of these natural resources for future 9 generations that have been born to this earth, because 10 those are the ones that we need to look forward to and 11 to ensure that they have a bright future ahead of them, 12 too. Not to clean up the mess that we are presently 13 trying to make at this current time. 14 I thank you for this time and this 15 16 opportunity, and I wish I was more verse and had the

17 opportunity to fully express of what I am feeling, but I 18 am sure that it will be conveyed in what words that I 19 did say. 20 Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.
22 Robert Jones, followed by Chandler Cooper.
23 MR. JONES: Good morning. My name is Robert

1	Jones. I'm a member of the Seneca Nation of Indians.
2	I think, what I have, is something where we
3	need to I mean everybody is talking about fracking in
4	western New York. These are the territories, like my
5	brother Darren said, these are Seneca territories. We
6	have actual documentation to prove that these were our
7	territories and as the US government personally
8	established a signed treaty with our ancestors.
9	In fact, I would like to actually point out
10	the fact that my seventh great grandfather was a guy by
11	the name or Horatio Jones. I picked this up from the
12	University of Buffalo not too long ago. It's a receipt
13	for \$500 for the Phelps and Gorham purchase with Horatio
14	signing, along with Corn Planter, Young King Black
15	Snake, Colonel Pollard and others.
16	I take this stuff pretty serious. I think
17	it's time for New York State to realize that it can't
18	run roughshod over the rights and the responsibilities
19	of the Iroquois and the Senecas.
20	I would like to read something to you which
21	actually for the record, I would like to cite it.
22	It's called Document and Official Reports Illustrating
23	the Causes Which Lead to the Revolution and the

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Government of the Seneca Indians in the Year 1848 and to
 the recognition of the representative republican
 constitution by the authorities of the United States and
 of the State of New York. Printed 1857. Filed in the
 Library of Congress.

In this report, they tried to tax our territories. A big to do happened, and what happened after that, they did an investigation. John Luke, the president of the Seneca Nation, writes a memorial letter to the State of New York and to the United States and asks, what's going on here? These lands our ours by treaty.

In the end, because it's only five minutes, 13 three minutes, here's what I think is the most important 14 paragraph in this document. It says, From a careful 15 examination of the several treaties heretofore decided 16 in the decisions of the highest courts of this state, 17 and of the United States, with applicable references. 18 It says, your committee are clearly of the 19 opinion that the Senecas do not hold a title to the 20 21 Cattaraugus County Indian reservations under the State

23 entitled to the same as original absolute exclusive, and

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of New York, nor under the United States, but they are

1 as the Senecas are now citizens of this state and have 2 no representative in our legislature, we can claim no 3 right to tax them.

I also, for the record, would like to read 4 something -- an article I got while digging through the 5 Buffalo public library, December 20, 1900, in Albany, it 6 was a recommendation of Governor Roosevelt's Commission 7 as to Indians of this state. It says, this commission, 8 appointed by Governor Roosevelt to investigate the 9 conditions of Indians in this state, and to make 10 recommendations to remedy the condition of political 11 status, reported in favor of their full admission to 12 citizenship and an allotment of the lands constituting 13 the state reservations among them. 14

Among other things, the commission says, "Regarding these Indians, from the point of view of their political status, the salient consideration is that they are living apart as separate nations on reservations which are, in fact, a foreign country within this state". And it goes on and on. I want to stop there.

When you travel into Canada, your phonestarts to roam. Why? Because Canada, a foreign

country, owns the airways. You need to remember if you 1 2 back up to the 1779 Big Tree treaty, where we gave up acres in western New York, what you are going to find is 3 that -- you are going to find just that. There's a 4 treaty involved, and it only refers to the land, the 5 soil, this parcel, this tract of land. Nowhere in that 6 7 document is any language saying that we gave up mineral rights to those lands. 8 You are going to see us in court. 9 And I invite the gentleman from the Office of the Governor to 10 take this message back to them, back to Andrew Cuomo. 11 This is a very serious issue. Do not run 12 roughshod over the rights of your own citizens, not to 13 mention those of the Seneca Nation. 14 This can be worked out. I think the Seneca 15 16 Nation has a way to maybe collaborate with New York State when this stuff happens. Everybody I think in the 17 room wants a watchdog. Who better to be a watchdog and 18 a steward, and what the lady mentioned here earlier, is 19 in your constitution you guys are to be stewards over 20 the land to make sure that this can't be perpetuated, 21 that the land doesn't go basically to hell. 22 23 So, please, five minutes certainly isn't

1	enough time, but I'm glad I got a chance to be here.
2	Please take this message back to Governor Cuomo. The
3	Senecas are not going to stand for this. We will see
4	you in US District Court. We've got lawyers. We're
5	ready to work with you, but take extra special care with
6	mother. This is our mother. This is your mother. This
7	is what sustains life.
8	Please, do not run roughshod over the rights
9	and disregard the actual treaties. They are the supreme
10	of the land. Governor Cuomo is duly bound and obligated
11	to uphold the New York State constitution and the
12	constitution of the United States.
13	Thank you.
14	CHAIRMAN RHODES: Just one point of
15	clarification. James Winebrake is actually a public
16	member from Rochester Institute of Technology. He was
17	appointed by the governor. The rest of us actually work
18	for the governor. Thank you.
19	Chandler Cooper, followed by Michael O'Brien.
20	MR. COOPER: You call me Chandler Cooper.
21	That name is not important. Where I come from, it
22	really isn't that important. What's going to make the
23	difference and what is important is why I am here and

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1 what I am doing here.

There's only -- in the five little minutes that conveniently was noosed around the words we are allowed to speak, I can only -- there's only so many ways that I can say the same thing that's being repeated to you gentlemen person after person after person after person.

Again, there is only so many words you can say, what's being said to you. You write everything down on your notes, and we all hope that you take these notes home with you, and everybody here leaves hoping what they said impacts these revisions or whatever happens to come next after this energy plan.

But I guess I am just here -- concerned citizen seems to be the good word. I hear that a lot. I like the way that sounds. I like the way it comes out.

I am concerned. I came to this meeting a little ignorant. I will admit I didn't really have all the information on what was going on, but I knew enough, enough to spark my interest to want to be here, and want to come. Enough to write my name on this paper without notes or without any premeditated notions. I'm up here.

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1	I'm shaking in the knees. I'm going off the top. I
2	just feel like it needs to be said.
3	Said over and over again, going to be said
4	again and again when I sit down. There's just no
5	fracking. There's no cut around it, you can't get to
6	it, there's no really choice, beautiful words you can
7	paint a picture around it, just everybody, the bottom
8	line, we know what's wrong.
9	And I would hope that you gentlemen know
10	what's wrong as well. I wouldn't understand how
11	somebody gets in these positions without knowing right
12	from wrong.
13	With all this information, evidence and
14	knowledge thrown at you and you guys are smart
15	people. You got to be smart. You know what this is
16	doing. It doesn't make any sense up here. I don't know
17	if maybe somebody else here makes a little more sense to
18	them, but you know what's wrong.
19	You see it. I know you feel that it's wrong,
20	but you continue to push natural gas and fracking. You
21	just keep doing it. It doesn't make any sense. I don't
22	get it. It doesn't compute. It seems so illogical and
23	so very irrational.
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1	I am kind of surprised the people who voted
2	you into these positions with that kind of thought
3	process that you guys are on. It doesn't make sense.
4	It just doesn't make sense.
5	That's all I have to say. That's all I want
6	to say.
7	CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.
8	Michael O'Brien, followed by Bill Wachob.
9	MR. O'BRIEN: My name is Michael O'Brien.
10	This is Isaiah, my son. Thank you for allowing this
11	opportunity. He's really tired, so I'll keep it short.
12	So, I am here as a private citizen, but in
13	full disclosure I am on the board of directors of Clean
14	Air Coalition of Western New York. I'm also a member of
15	the organization UB Coalition for Leading Ethically in
16	Academic Research, which helped to shut down the Shale
17	Research Society Institute here at UB because of the
18	fraudulent science they are producing.
19	And I want to speak on behalf of Isaiah here,
20	and all the children in New York State, to say that if I
21	was a teacher giving this report a grade I would give it
22	a D minus.
23	And essentially, the report, I wouldn't

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accept the D minus from my children and I won't accept 1 2 it from my government. And the reason is is it doesn't 3 give clear definition of what is clean energy. It's not even stated. 4 5 We need a hundred percent renewable energy. 6 We need no reliance on natural gas. No fossil fuels at 7 all. 8 If by the time this child is 40 years old 9 he's going to have any bit of sustainable ecology, never 10 mind a freaking economy, but an ecology, which is the basis for all economies, then we need to start now today 11 12 to go to a hundred percent renewables. That's solar, geothermal, wind. We don't 13 14 need fracked natural gas. We don't need any of this stuff, and any more infrastructure for natural gas or 15 any other fossil fuel is harming the future of our 16 17 children. 18 This is not a clean energy plan, and you need 19 to be clear about that, and we need to step up and in 20 the name of our children move towards a hundred percent renewable energy alone. 21 22 Thank you. CHAIRMAN RHODES: Bill Wachob, followed by 23

1	Charlie Tarr.
2	MR. WACHOB: Thank you for listening to us
3	today. I want to put this in a global context. And I
4	have given four different papers to the lady at the
5	computer. I hope all of you will take and read and feed
6	into the public record.
7	I am concerned about global warming global
8	climate change, human cause, because I am concerned
9	about it's leading to the end of life as we know it on
10	earth.
11	When I read that and say that I either want
12	to laugh or cry or just think how ironic that is, but
13	for me this is the context of all of this. It goes
14	back, I think my consciousness changed as a result of a
15	distinguished lecture series lecture in 1991 by Carl
16	Sagan of Cornell University.
17	That's one of the it was excerpted or
18	summarized in an Interplanetary Lessons piece from a
19	faculty of natural science and math newsletter. And
20	basically what it says is that, what Carl Sagan said is
21	that coal, oil, natural gas, all fossil fuels, cause a
22	release well, he didn't say this of CO2 and/or
23	methane into the atmosphere, contributing to global

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1 warming.

2	What Sagan said is that the more CO2 and
3	he didn't say methane but I think that's, what? 70
4	times I think the warmer, the less CO2 the cooler.
5	This is not something invented by a
6	scientist. This is not theory. This is reality. The
7	rise in temperature may lead to two seemingly
8	contradictory events this is incredible drought
9	and floods.
10	Midwest America and the Ukraine, two
11	important agricultural areas, may approach something
12	like a scrub desert, while melting glacial ice will
13	cause an increase in the sea level, and consequently
14	could flood coastal cities.
15	Then he went on to say that unless we find
16	the determination to pursue solar and other non-fossil
17	fuel technology, we risk ending up lifeless like our
18	heavenly siblings, Mars and Venus.
19	And in the course of the article that
20	summarizes his talk, he says Mars used to have rivers
21	but lost its ozone. He said, the US or the world was
22	dealing with the CFCs that were causing the depreciation
23	of ozone.

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He said Venus has a surface temperature of 1 2 900 degrees Farenheit, even though it's closer to the It shouldn't have that, but it was through global 3 sun. warming mechanism that stopped the reflection of I think 4 it was infrared or something heat back into the 5 atmosphere and trapped it, that Venus was resulted with 6 what it had. 7 So, that got my attention back in 1991, and 8 it's conditioned kind of my view of things like jobs, 9 I and fossil fuel technology, and this sort of thing. 10 have always believed that my actions affect my life, 11 12 those around me, and the world maybe in a very miniscule 13 way. But in a sense you all have the ability to 14 convey information back that affects what New York does 15 16 that's a much more significant impact on perhaps life on 17 earth. 18 We're not talking about us. We live in a region very comfortably here that is not being 19 noticeably affected by it. But think about our kids and 20 21 our grandkids. And also, New York State really has the 22 chance to become a leader in things by not going the 23 route of more fossil fuel and by going other routes.

My last two homes -- I live in Buffalo now, I 1 used to live in Eggertsville up until about two years 2 3 ago -- I've had solar panels installed. This was subsidized by NYSERDA and also the federal and the state 4 5 tax incentives, which I understand is decreasing. But they put a limit of 110 percent 6 7 generation ability that NYSERDA I think would subsidize. I'm not sure why. Can't we use even more energy by 8 rooftop solar installation? It generated a hundred 9 percent of my electrical needs. We had electric heating 10 -- not electric heating, but electric stove and this 11 sort of thing. 12 So, there are other things that can be done. 13 Let me think. I am starting to wander here, but New 14 York State could be going that route. That created 15 It was done by local contractors, Renewable 16 jobs. Rochester, and that sort of thing. 17 And also, more recently, and I have invested 18 19 in this, but there is a development of a wind turbine -it's Keen Wind Turbines -- by an inventor in Buffalo 20 that's orders of magnitude less expensive, smaller, 21 generates orders of magnitude more efficient than the 22 huge wind turbines. 23

1	So, there are technologies out there, mainly
2	wind, solar and geothermal, that New York could be
3	investing in that would perhaps lessen the likelihood or
4	the possibility that we would destroy life on earth.
5	And if you look at it in that way, to me in
6	my life, and my head, it puts a different perspective on
7	all of this that we are talking about. There are
8	alternatives to fossil fuel. I just hope that New York
9	State and the United States will start to go that route
10	and keep up with places like China and Denmark, that are
11	developing these kind of technologies and the jobs that
12	go with them and the cleaner environment.
13	Thanks again for listening.
14	CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.
15	Charlie Tarr, followed by Don Duggan-Haas.
16	MR. TARR: Good afternoon. My name is
17	Charlie Tarr. I have resided in Buffalo for nearly 20
18	years.
19	I would like to thank the governor today for
20	the bright renewable moments of his leadership. Thanks
21	also to my colleagues who have focused on the
22	catastrophic perils of hydrofracturing and climate
23	destabilization. It's also wonderful to see that the

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Jacobson Stanford plan has been tabled today. 1 2 Yesterday, I was honored to travel to the 4th 3 Department of the State Appellate Court in Rochester. Among the daily proceedings was a water withdrawal case 4 presented by Attorney Richard Lippes, and my dear 5 friend, Attorney Rachel Treichler. 6 7 It was poor joy to witness the enthusiasm of the justices for the career and wisdom resplendent of 8 9 Mr. Lippes as he delivered his oral argument. Ι realized in that moment the most important comments 10 11 delivered to you today would comprise a demand the State 12 Environmental Quality Review Act be upheld and applied 13 for every measure of its original and intended purity. This dedication must arrive from the office 14 15 of Governor Cuomo downward, through Commissioner Martens, settling deep and thoroughly within every town 16 council and municipal planning board. 17 18 When we fail to apply SEQR consistently and correctly, we fail to honor the wisdom and precious 19 lessons of the men and women who have suffered before 20 21 us. Our doors throughout the state are then wide 22 open for the deceit, the greed and the destruction of 23

1 complacency and ignorance. Our record in this moment is 2 extremely poor. 3 In realtime, a legal injunction has been 4 filed at Ravenswood to demand the DEC enforce our new 5 water withdrawal regulations among the state's largest 6 present consumers of water. 7 In realtime, a biomass energy company with 8 billions of dollars in corporate backing is professing 9 the safe distribution of toxic metals, VOCs, and complex chemical contamination moved from our wastewater streams 10 on to our farmland. 11 12 Unfortunately, the abyss between mesothermic 13 and heliothermic digestion is neither reaching our 14 farmers, nor our consumers, for clear understanding and 15 appropriate debate. The last decade, without waste and 16 constraints, standing environmental cases, and our court 17 18 system is awash in Article 78 proceedings. 19 In my hand is the \$7,000 the proceeding 20 required after the Buffalo planning board disregarded a 21 direct advisement of both an assemblyman and the state 22 senate environmental chair, compelling the engagement of 23 the Department of State to guide their decision process.

This filing failed at the trial level and the people are exhausted financially. It failed in the live presence of the corporate petitioner's wealth. They will now have a new discount gasoline station 100 feet adjacent to Scajaquada Creek, thus, a quarter mile from the Niagara River.

7 In realtime, our inadequate review and our 8 inadequate decision making process finds hydrogen 9 sulfide and unprecedented levels of volatile organic 10 compounds in the rail and pipeline transport of bakken 11 crude oil, claiming more than 50 lives, endangering 12 children, and daily imperiling tens of thousands of 13 lives throughout our state.

In realtime, the refreshing and abundant references to environmental justice communities in your plan appear egregiously hypocritical, as our governor intercedes on segmented efforts to expand international diesel engine traffic at the peril of children and minorities throughout the west side of Buffalo.

I pray that you will heed the warning that any energy plan requires vigorous public disclosure. And I pray that you will seek to uphold and enforce further public debate.

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1	Thank you.
2	CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.
3	Don Duggan-Haag, followed by Clarke Gocker.
4	MR. DUGGAN-HAAG: I am Don Duggan-Haag from
5	the Paleontological Research Institution. It's a museum
6	of the earth and a human nature center which is over in
7	Ithaca, but I telecommute from here in Amherst.
8	I did prepare some remarks, but having
9	listened to those who came before me I am going to go
10	off script and hope it's not a horrible thing. I'm
11	going to start off with a little audience participation.
12	The five largest sources of electric
13	generation for both for New York State, and I think
14	for the US at large I am not sure about one of them
15	are coal in alphabetical order are coal,
16	hydroelectric, natural gas, non-hydro renewables, and
17	nuclear power.
18	I am going to ask you to raise your hands
19	twice for the two that you think are the biggest in New
20	York State, and I'll note that for most of the last 25
21	years they have been roughly tied. For most of the last
22	15 years they have been roughly tied. That's changed in
23	the last couple of years.

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1	In 2009, the two largest sources each
2	produced about 31 percent of the electricity of New York
3	State. So, let me just rattle through it one more time
4	before I ask you to raise your hands, and now I'm going
5	to ask you to raise your hands twice, once for each of
6	the two largest sources. They are: Coal, hydro,
7	natural gas, non-hydro renewables, and nuclear.
8	So, raise your hand if you think coal is one
9	of the two largest sources for electricity in New York
10	State.
11	(Hands raised.)
12	Okay, hydro.
13	(Hands raised.)
14	Natural gas.
15	(Hands raised.)
16	Non-hydro renewables.
17	(Hands raised.)
18	You are right.
19	Nuclear.
20	(Hands raised.)
21	So, three people with hands up for nuclear,
22	is that right? Did any of you also have your hands up
23	for natural gas, any of you three? No.

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1 No one in this room got the question correct. 2 The two largest sources of electric generation in New 3 York State are natural gas and nuclear power. Natural 4 gas in 2012 produced 44 percent of the electricity used 5 in New York State. Nuclear power produced about 30 percent. Hydro was number three at about 22 percent. 6 7 Coal was number four at three percent in 2012, dropping 8 precipitously in the last few years. 9 Non-hydro renewables was also roughly around three or four percent. Wind is now producing two 10 11 percentish, and then there's other sources that go into that basket as well. 12 I ask that question for a couple of reasons. 13 14 One is that it's fun to ask a question that a lot of 15 people get wrong, but we try and do that nicely. The second reason is that most people simply 16 17 don't know where we get our energy from now: And if we consider that most homes in New York State are also 18 19 heated by natural gas, natural gas is the lion's share, 20 by far the largest source of energy production in New 21 York State. Almost twice as much as the second largest 22 piece, which is gasoline. 23 If you put all petroleum together, natural

1 gas and petroleum are roughly equal. So, heating oil 2 and other distillate fuel oil and stuff like that. 3 I raise this question because part of what 4 the plan should do is educate the public about where 5 energy comes from now. It's very, very important, I 6 think, if you're going to make informed decisions about 7 where your energy comes from in the future, you need to 8 know where it comes from now. 9 Most of us don't. I didn't before I started working on some National Science Foundation funded 10 11 programming for Marcellus shale education. 12 I am not here to say that hydrofracking is 13 good or bad. We actually promised the National Science 14 Foundation that we would not advocate for or against 15 hydraulic fracturing, but more to educate the public about hydraulic fracturing and the larger energy system 16 17 I also feel like, as I was sitting here 18 today, I read a different document than many of the 19 other people who spoke before me. I did not see anywhere in what I have read -- I have not read the 20 21 entire volume two. I have not read much of volume two, 22 honestly. I've read all of volume one. 23 I do not see

anywhere where it said that natural gas is a clean 1 energy source. I did see implications that it was 2 cleaner than other energy sources. 3 I thank the panel for doing this largely 4 5 thankless work. The plan strikes me as not so bad. It is not a pro-fracking document, as I read it. It does 6 7 predict what might happen if fracking does or does not 8 occur, but it does both, and I think that's the reasonable and responsible thing to do. 9 And my time is up. I could say a lot more. 10 11 I will give a copy of our book to the panel. And I 12 prepared comments, but I am going to junk them and send 13 something else. 14 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Clarke Gocker, followed by Brian Smith. 15 16 MR. GOCKER: Good afternoon. My name is Clarke Gocker. I'm here representing People United for 17 Sustainable Housing or PUSH Buffalo. We are a grass 18 roots non-profit in the City of Buffalo. We work in the 19 20 low income neighborhoods on the west side of the city. And in full disclosure, we are a contractor 21 in a NYSERDA energy efficiency program at this time. 22 I just want to focus my comments on one of 23

the focus areas in the plan, and that's improving energy 1 affordability. PUSH Buffalo believes that improving 2 energy affordability extends to increasing access to and 3 equity in the delivery of energy efficiency and clean 4 energy programs, especially for economically 5 marginalized communities, communities with high energy 6 burdens, and environmental justice communities. 7 NYSERDA's existing Green Jobs Green New York 8 energy efficiency retrofit program represents, in my 9 mind, a really successful model for deploying energy 10 efficiency and clean energy in underserved communities 11 across the state. 12 And I would agree with a lot of the 13 sentiments here that what we are looking at I think is 14 more a vision document than a plan. I think when we see 15 an actionable operational plan come across the wire, 16 look at Green Jobs Green New York as being a model that 17 could be plugged in to additional programs in the state. 18 Green Jobs Green New York has created an 19 institutionalized role for community based 20 organizations, or as they are called in the program 21 CBOs, in NYSERDA's market transformation efforts. 22 CBOs across the state are outreaching to low 23

1 to moderate income constituents to increase access to 2 energy audits and financing, and subsidies for retrofit 3 improvements.

CBOs are advocating for consumers and ratepayers as they engage local markets to procure the services offered by contractors.

7 And CBOs are leveraging their ability to drive customer demand to secure affirmative commitments 8 9 from contractors to hire from disadvantaged local communities and to pay their workers sustaining wages. 10 11 I don't read much of that in the energy plan, but, again, I think we have precedent for the Green Jobs 12 13 Green New York. And what I do read is a plan that I think seeks to advance a market based approach to clean 14 15 energy deployment.

And absent, I think, watchdogs or third party groups, intermediaries, at the community level or consumer advocate groups, I think what we will be doing is a disservice to consumers, ratepayers, community members across the state, if this plan moves forward without, again, an institutionalized role for the intermediary groups.

Thank you.

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Thank you very much. 1 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Brian Smith, to be followed by Gloria Foster. 2 MR. SMITH: Thanks for the opportunity to 3 comment today and for extending the public comment 4 5 We appreciate that. period. My name is Brian Smith, and I am a program 6 and communications director for Citizens Campaign for 7 the Environment, or CCE, and we will be submitting more 8 extensive written comments, but I will touch on some 9 priority issues today. 10 We could certainly give credit to the draft 11 plan that it does allude to investing in energy 12 efficiency renewables and combatting climate change, all 13 of which are essential for a sustainable energy policy 14 in New York State. However, it lacks a blueprint with 15 aggressive, yet achievable, goals. 16 Setting interim targets and long term goals 17 are critical to maximizing New York's efficiency and 18 renewable energy potential, while demonstrating to the 19 clean energy industry that New York State is open for 20 21 business. The cheapest and cleanest and the safest 22 energy is the energy that we do not use, making energy 23

1	conservation and efficiency a top priority.
2	The draft plan's reference to a state
3	commitment by 2020 is in CCE's opinion not enough. We
4	need a much stronger target with dollar budgets to
5	capture all cost effective energy efficiency across all
6	sectors.
7	The final plan should, at a minimum, set a
8	goal of achieving 20 percent of forecasted demand with
9	energy efficiency by the year 2025.
10	In reference to renewables, we have vast
11	renewable energy potential, particularly with wind and
12	solar, which will only be realized with stronger
13	targets.
14	The draft makes reference to the state's
15	commitment to renewable energy to the year 2025 must be
16	strengthened quickly by committing to a goal of
17	generating 50 percent of the state's electricity from
18	renewable energy by the year 2025. We believe this is
19	both achievable and affordable
20	Of course, merely setting a goal does not
21	guarantee the goal will be met. It is no secret that
22	New York State is lagging far behind meeting its
23	renewable energy goal of 30 percent by the year 2015.

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1	Problems with the state's RPS program are
2	prohibiting the state from meeting our renewable energy
3	goals. I will touch on a few of those.
4	NYSERDA, you guys know being limited to
5	offering only 10 year renewable energy credits or REC
6	only contracts, which fails to incentivize meaningful
7	participation in NYSERDA's main tier solicitations. We
8	need long term certainty for the industry.
9	The lack of regulatory regularly scheduled
10	and known RPS competitive solicitations has served as a
11	barrier for wind developers to be able to adequately
12	plan for potential wind projects in New York State.
13	And also, we are not even getting all the
14	limited resources that we have out the door. NYSERDA
15	has \$20.3 million unencumbered funds from the customer
16	sited tier of the RPS in 2013.
17	We can either repeat the mistakes of the past
18	or we can learn from them. We believe these issues must
19	be addressed in the short term, of course, to meet a
20	2015 target, but also New York must incorporate policy
21	solutions, which we will go into more detail in our
22	written comments, to address these problems in the final
23	energy plan.

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Additionally, the state will fail to meet 1 2 long term renewable energy goals if there is not a stronger commitment to wind power particularly. We have 3 great wind power, particularly upstate New York, both 4 land based and offshore. 5 According to the National Renewable Energy 6 Laboratory, New York has enough wind energy potential to 7 supply 50 percent of the state's energy generation and 8 the electricity needs, but currently only provides about 9 two percent. 10 Land based products are not moving forward in 11 upstate New York as they once were, and time after time 12 potential offshore projects, such as NYPA's Great Lakes 13 offshore wind initiative, and Joint Long Island-New York 14 City offshore collaborative, with Con Ed, NYPA and LIPA, 15 have shown great promise, but have failed to 16 17 materialize. We can no longer repeat this again and again like a broken record. 18 The final plan must make a firm commitment to 19 maximizing land based wind and implementing offshore 20 21 projects in the Great Lakes and in the Atlantic in order to meet our renewable energy goals. 22 23 Moving toward a clean renewable energy future

1	is really the only responsible path that New York State
2	can take. We strongly believe that fracked gas is not
3	clean energy, and it's not a bridge fuel. It is merely
4	a bridge to a warming planet.
5	And we want to say that fracking will cause
6	irreparable harm wherever it occurs, whether it's New
7	York or elsewhere.
8	The draft plan has unfortunately proposed to
9	replace dirty polluting fuels like nukes and coal with
10	another one, which is gas, the stopgap measure which
11	does not prepare us for a brighter future.
12	Nowhere is the problem with fracked gas more
13	apparent than here in western New York, where the state
14	is planning to repower the Dunkirk coal plant with gas.
15	This despite the fact that transmission upgrades would
16	meet energy demand, and thus lower costs to ratepayers,
17	and also pave the way for increased renewable energy.
18	Yet the state is pushing repowering at the
19	ratepayers' expense, which will shackle the region to
20	higher costs and pollution for decades to come.
21	We are really urging the energy board to
22	reject this type of shortsighted energy policy in the
23	final energy plan, and think more long term.

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1	The final plan should explicitly prioritize
2	efficiency renewables over fossil fuels like fracked
3	gas, and recognize that gas is not clean or sustainable.
4	Thank you very much.
5	CHAIRMAN RHODES: Gloria Foster, to be
6	followed by Steven Foster.
7	MS. FOSTER: My name is Gloria Foster. I'm
8	from Canandaigua, New York right now. We came to New
9	York after living in Wisconsin for 33 years. And I have
10	to say I thought, oh, a Democratic governor. I tell
11	you: That has been one horrible joke. And I hope that
12	you can tell him that.
13	I am going to submit one of the things
14	that I am submitting is a letter that I wrote to
15	Governor Cuomo in 2011. This is about hydrofracking.
16	Everyone here has been saying exactly what I feel and
17	what I think. This also says this is from 2011.
18	The only thing that is different, and no one
19	has brought this up as far as I know, is the new plan by
20	our DEC that should be ashamed of themselves. I am
21	talking as a mother and a grandmother, and one that is
22	deeply connected with mother earth, having had cancer,
23	just like she has.

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The one thing that is different is the 1 liquified natural gas ploy to try to bring all this 2 dirty fracked gas through New York State to develop it, 3 transport it, and then, oh, for the oil and gas company, 4 they ship it off from a port off of Long Island. ₩e 5 went to that hearing as well. 6 And I have to say -- I can say thank you for 7 being here. On the other hand, you guys are here to be 8 representing us. You are here to be listening to us. 9 You are being paid to be here. So, I appreciate you 10 being here, and I hope to God that you will bring back 11 the force of the feeling that we have. 12 So, this is one thing that I am giving. 13 Also, after having been at that hearing about LNG, that 14 you propose this thing that you are calling a plan, you 15 should all be ashamed. You should all be horribly 16 ashamed. Do you not have children? Do you have 17 grandchildren? Do you care about this earth? 18

Anyway, I underlined the things here. And people have all spoken about it already anyway. So, there is another paper, all the myths about LNG, and how very dirty it is, too. This is about greed. Greed, and not being accountable for the high place that you have

1 been given to represent us. You probably already have this. It's easily 2 gotten off the computer. It's also very hard to get up 3 here and talk to you, but at any rate, this is something 4 that was easy enough. It took a minute to get it off of 5 the Internet. And this is an energy policy by Mark 6 Jacobson, Robert Howarth, a lot of people. Also Dr. 7 8 Ingraffea. 9 We recently attended a talk that he gave at the college near us. And do you realize that he put up 10 11 charts that showed our economy, and the way we have been fuddling around, led by you guys, to not do anything 12 13 substantial. And he put up a chart. I mean these are 14 scientific. I mean, have you been following what 15 16 scientists have been saying? Then he put up a chart 17 about what's happening to our earth. Do you realize that in 20 years it's all over with? 20 years. You put 18 those two charts together and it's over. 19 That's all I have to say. And I thank you. 20 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Steven Foster, followed by 21 Charley Olena. 22 MR. FOSTER: I'm the husband of that force of 23

1	nature.							
2	And I have been coming to these hearings for							
3	five years since we have come to New York State. I am							
4	amazed. You people can just keep hearing all this stuff							
5	from all these wonderful environmentalists. It's a very							
6	potent force in New York State and I'm proud to be part							
7	of a movement.							
8	I see you sitting there five years in a row							
9	now not doing anything. You call combatting climate							
10	change by accelerating hydrofracking in the state, and							
11	bringing gas from all over the country into New York							
12	State so we can get liquified? That stuff is so							
13	polluting. It's just going to drive the environment							
14	crazy.							
15	The earth is angry. I am angry. We are							
16	here, it's our sacred duty I really believe this							
17	to take care of the earth, to protect the environment,							
18	to care for each other. I don't see New York politics							
19	doing that whatsoever.							
20	I feel like a victim of something that's							
21	potentially horrible in this state if you don't take a							
22	good listen to what we have been saying here today and							
23	probably at all the other hearings.							

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1	I don't know what it's going to take to get
2	you to change where you sit, but where you sit could be
3	in hell if you let the state get fracked, if you let the
4	state become a center in the northeast for liquified
5	natural gas.
6	It's insanity. It's a mistake. I care for
7	my children and my grandchildren about what you do
8	because their futures are very dim the way things are
9	looking right now.
10	Cuomo is talking about creating a university
11	to deal with terrorism and disaster, and he wants to
12	frack New York State and bring liquified natural gas in
13	the state. It's a conflict of interest, if you excuse
14	the expression. It's not funny, this is very serious.
15	It's a matter of life and death.
16	Take this message to your heart: We've got
17	to protect the environment. We've got to protect the
18	planet. Got to care for ourselves through caring for
19	the earth.
20	Hydrofracking, liquified natural gas, is not
21	going to do anything but hurt us. We've got to go to
22	sustainable energy systems to protect not just us in the
23	state, but the whole planet.

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1	Thank you.
2	CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.
3	Charley Olena, followed by Diane Evans.
4	MS. EVANS: I will say that Charley had to
5	leave.
6	My name is Diane Evans, and I have lived in
7	New York all my life. I represent Sierra Club, but I
8	also am a former teacher and I had a lot of influence
9	over a lot of children. And we can't let our children
10	down.
11	Children believe in a clean earth. They want
12	to do everything possible they can to keep it that way.
13	We can't let them down by not addressing issues now that
14	happen to be true.
15	I did read through the report. I support
16	several things. I support the initiative to upgrade the
17	transmission lines, increasing capacity.
18	Initiative number three, to create and
19	implement new building codes and standards that improve
20	energy efficiency, as well as energy conservation.
21	Initiative five I certainly support, but I do
22	strongly recommend, as a few others have today, that the
23	governor mandate NYPA to establish a feed-in tariff to

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address this issue and to incentivize more renewable 1 2 energy production. The feed-in tariff has worked successfully in 3 Ontario, Vermont, Germany, all kind of places around the 4 world. It's something that could really help boost 5 renewable energy production here, as well as 6 7 manufacturing. Initiative nine does say that let's reduce 8 9 our reliance on petroleum, but we can't do it by -- this is a quote -- "expanding access to natural gas in the 10 near term". 11 I agree with a lot of people who have spoken 12 today that that's a huge mistake. It will affect the 13 health and welfare of all of us who live here. 14 15 I do support I think it was number 15, fostering a clean energy workforce, retraining some of 16 17 our workers who have worked in the coal and natural gas 18 industry. On page 56 it says directly, let's reduce the 19 environmental impacts associated with our energy system 20 by decreasing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing carbon 21 intensity, reduce reliance on petroleum -- these are all 22 in the report -- reduce the health and economic impacts 23

associated with air pollution from fossil fuels, but to 1 do that we need more in the plan that specifies how we 2 3 are going to do that. I have been very impressed with the speakers 4 today, the knowledge, the statistics. I'm impressed 5 that you worked so long on this plan, but I do feel that 6 it needs some definite revisions. 7 Let's do it not just for ourselves but for 8 9 our future. Thank you. CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much. 10 Don Wells, to be followed by Cassie Wilson. 11 MR. WELLS: Don Wells. I am here as a 12 citizen of the state. 13 I have one question, because I have only read 14 through volume one, I have not seen the other volumes. 15 Is the word "education" mentioned anywhere other than 16 State Education Department? Has anybody read the word 17 "education"? Not prominent. 18 We are talking beliefs, behaviors, education. 19 I would encourage that this be looked at as part of the 20 state plan because, starting right in the home with 21 children, right through high school, right through 22 23 college.

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1	The whole concept of getting away from a
2	privileged society that just want things. I will tell
3	you a little story. Last night I came home from work.
4	My granddaughter came to visit us, and she had a new
5	car, just going on 17.
6	And the first three letters of the license
7	plates were GMY. Immediately it hit my mind, gimme. We
8	are part of a gimme generation. It's been going on for
9	years. I might say gimme says just let me take it.
10	What we need to do is turn around and say,
11	may I take it? And I will be responsible for its use.
12	And know that it's more than turning a switch and
13	putting in a light bulb. It goes all back to the
14	generation plant. Prior to that it goes back to where
15	the fuel source is.
16	We must properly address this. We have no
17	need for fracking, less generation, and be able to have
18	renewables in a better place.
19	Just that type of commonsense approach
20	education, changing behaviors, changing beliefs and
21	what we are as part of this country.
22	Thank you.
23	CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.

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Cassie Wilson, and that's the last request 1 for speaking that we have. Is Cassie Wilson still here? 2 3 (There was no response.) 4 Seeing no further speakers, I want to first 5 of all thank -- from all of us, I want to thank the University of Buffalo for allowing us to have this 6 7 meeting in their place. On behalf of the State Energy Planning Board, 8 I want to thank all of the commenters. You have made 9 excellent points. You have given us a great deal to 10 think about. 11 We have undertaken the development of the 12 plan in its draft form with great seriousness, and it's 13 extremely important as we push towards finalization that 14 we hear comments and questions like yours. 15 Please do remember that written comments can 16 17 be submitted on our website, energyplan.ny.gov, up until April 30. I encourage you and everybody else to do so. 18 Thank you again. 19 (Public hearing concluded at 12:55 p.m.) 20 21 22 23

CERTIFICATION I, Jeanne O'Connell, Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of New York, do hereby certify that the foregoing to be a true and accurate transcription of the stenographic notes as taken by me of the aforesaid proceedings. Jeanne O'Connell 

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