

1 NEW YORK STATE ENERGY RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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3 Public Hearing on the Draft Energy Plan 2014
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6 DATE: March 3, 2014

7 TIME: 1:09 p.m. - 4:58 p.m.

8 LOCATION: SUNY Farmingdale
9 Little Theater at Roosevelt Hall
10 Melville Road
11 Farmingdale, New York

12 HELD BEFORE:

13 John Rhodes, President of NYSERDA

14 Judith Lee, Executive Deputy of the Public Service
Commission

15 Jared Snyder, Assistant Commissioner of New York State
16 Department of Environmental Conservation
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21 REPORTED BY: Jeanne O'Connell, RPR (518) 271-7904
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1 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Good afternoon, and
2 welcome. My name is John Rhodes, and I am President
3 and CEO of the New York State Energy Research and
4 Development Authority and I am here today as chair of
5 the State Energy Planning Board.

6 I would like to introduce to you the other
7 representatives of the planning board joining me
8 today. Judy Lee, Executive Deputy of the Public
9 Service Commission, and Jared Snyder, Assistant
10 Commissioner of the Department of Environmental
11 Conservation.

12 Before we get started, some housekeeping.
13 First of all, thanks to our host, Farmingdale State
14 College. The exits are marked around the sides here.
15 The restrooms are out the doors and to your left
16 around the curve.

17 We are guests here, so I will just go on
18 record as asking for decorum in all these comments.
19 The prior hearings have been really exemplary in that
20 respect, so it's been a very good process.

21 Also, we are joined by Terry Maromme of
22 Public Access today who is going to be filming these
23 proceedings. I think just as a courtesy to you, the

1 private citizens of the audience, I wanted to make
2 you aware of that.

3 This is a hearing to accept public comments
4 on the 2014 Draft State Energy Plan. It was approved
5 by the State Energy Planning Board on January 7, 2014
6 and made available on the energy plan website,
7 energyplan.ny.gov.

8 The plan was issued in accordance with
9 Article 6 of the Energy Law. Public notice of the
10 issuance of the plan and notice of the public hearing
11 were published in the State Register on January 29,
12 2014.

13 This draft plan is the result of some
14 serious, thoughtful work, and it envisions an energy
15 system that is clean, flexible, affordable, resilient
16 and reliable.

17 It lays out initiatives to achieve that
18 vision that focused on five areas: Improving energy
19 affordability, unleashing the power of private sector
20 funding, providing a more resilient and flexible
21 power grid to give customers more control over their
22 energy use, aligning energy innovation with market
23 demand.

1 Accordingly, the plan outlines long term
2 policy goals, near term action items, and meaningful
3 metrics.

4 The draft plan consists of two volumes.
5 The first volume provides 15 key initiatives to
6 advance the state's energy future.

7 The second volume addresses energy uses,
8 sources and impacts, and provides a detailed
9 background that was used to develop the overarching
10 mission and the initiatives in the first volume.

11 This is one of six public hearing sessions
12 that were planned to receive public comments. The
13 remaining session is scheduled for Syracuse.

14 Written comments on the draft plan will
15 also be accepted through April 30, 2014, and
16 information on submitting written comments can be
17 found on the energy plan website.

18 If you decide to submit written comments,
19 please do so as soon as possible so that they can be
20 carefully considered. All comments, whether oral or
21 written, will be considered by the Energy Planning
22 Board as the board works toward issuance of the final
23 energy plan. All comments count equally regardless

1 of how they were received. The planning board is
2 targeting issuance of the final plan in the spring of
3 2014.

4 The process today is simple. Those who
5 want to comment at this hearing have been asked to
6 sign in upon arrival. Your name will be called one
7 at a time to speak. When your name is called, please
8 come to the podium to provide your statement. I will
9 try to make a practice of also announcing the name of
10 the following speaker, the on deck person, so to
11 speak.

12 The court reporter is here today to provide
13 a transcript to the planning board of everything that
14 is said today. It is very important that there be
15 only one speaker at a time so that the reporter can
16 hear clearly.

17 Speakers should address their comments in
18 the direction of the microphone and please make an
19 effort to speak clearly and slowly. Also, she may
20 call for a break. She is the only one who has that
21 authority.

22 It is also very important that those in
23 attendance may be courteous to the speakers so that

1 his or her comments can be transcribed accurately by
2 the court reporter. If you provide a statement and
3 have a written version with you, it would be helpful
4 if you would provide that written version to us
5 either today or following the hearing so that we can
6 provide those to the court reporter to assist in
7 providing the transcript.

8 All speakers are asked to focus on issues
9 that pertain to the Draft Energy Plan only. Your
10 comments should be as succinct as possible so that we
11 can hear from as many of you as possible. We have
12 set a five minute deadline for that purpose, but of
13 course after everyone has had a chance to address the
14 board, repeat speakers may be afforded another five
15 minutes should the hearing time permit.

16 Formal presentations, such as Power Point,
17 are not being allowed today. Again, our goal is to
18 hear from as many of you as possible. As this is a
19 statement hearing, the planning board is not
20 entertaining questions. This is an opportunity for
21 us to receive feedback on the draft plan.

22 Those who want to comment but do not want
23 to speak publicly or do not get a chance to do so,

1 again, can submit written comments via our website.

2 Again, that's energyplan.ny.gov.

3 With that, I want to thank you all again
4 for coming today, and ask if there are any questions
5 about the process, and we can take any of those at
6 this time.

7 SPEAKER: How are you indicating time?

8 CHAIRMAN RHODES: My colleague Carl has a
9 coaching sign. Thank you.

10 Are there any further process questions?

11 (There was no response.)

12 Seeing none, I will call our first speaker.
13 Warren Woodge, followed by Eleanor Krebs.

14 MR. WOODGE: Hello, I am Warren Woodge.

15 How many of you are tired of all the
16 shoveling snow? Okay. Where have all the sidewalks
17 gone? Long time passing. Where have all the sidewalks
18 gone? Two months ago. Where have all the sidewalks
19 gone? Under blizzards everyone. Oh, when will we ever
20 learn? Oh, when will we ever learn?

21 Are you sick of shoveling all this snow?
22 Fracking and fossil fuels and extra energy added to our
23 atmosphere changed the climate, and cause more frequent

1 and more heavy snowstorms. So, we don't want that. We
2 don't want it anywhere in the State of New York.

3 By the way, for those of you who don't know
4 -- I am sure all of you do -- every Monday call Governor
5 Cuomo 1-866-961-3208 and tell him to ban fracking
6 throughout New York State. Tell him your name, where
7 you live, and tell Governor Cuomo to ban fracking
8 throughout the state. Again, the phone number,
9 1-866-961-3208. Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.

11 Eleanor Krebs, followed by Gregory Atherton.

12 MS. KREBS: I am Eleanor Krebs. I'm from
13 Farmingdale. I've lived here for 52 years. I love New
14 York and I love Long Island.

15 I feel that fracking has proved in other
16 parts of the country to be very harmful to the soil, air
17 and water. Once you contaminate the soil, air and water
18 you don't get it back again.

19 Fracking will not do us any good in the long
20 run. It may be a temporary remedy to get a little more
21 gas or oil from the ground, and it will help us a little
22 bit, but in the long run we're going to have to depend
23 on renewable energy like solar energy, wind energy,

1 water energy.

2 These are the things we need to work on in
3 New York State and all over the country. For that
4 matter, all over the world. We need to have renewable
5 energy which does not harm our environment. It will not
6 do us any good to frack a bit and postpone the day when
7 we need to depend entirely on renewable energy, but that
8 day will come and we don't want to destroy the earth.

9 I have called on Governor Cuomo to ban
10 fracking in New York State. Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.

12 Gregory Atherton, followed by Dr. Matthew
13 Cordaro.

14 MR. ATHERTON: Hello. My name is Gregory
15 Atherton. I am chief of staff for Assemblyman
16 Lupinacci. He apologizes to everyone for not being here
17 today. He's attending to his duties as a legislator in
18 Albany.

19 But Assemblyman Lupinacci, not only has he
20 been a leader in education as a member of -- the ranking
21 member of the higher education committee, but he also
22 sees how education and the environment ties together.

23 For example, he was a big proponent of the

1 solar carport here on these very grounds at Farmingdale
2 State College. He knows and hopes that that's only
3 going to be the beginning of the research and the
4 projects that are going to be following in the coming
5 months and years.

6 Assemblyman Lupinacci has prepared a
7 statement for today's meeting here. It can be viewed on
8 Youtube at Lupinacci's Energy Plan. And he's always
9 available for meetings in Albany and on his Long Island
10 office, which is located in Huntington Station at 1783
11 New York Avenue. His phone number is 631-271-8025.
12 That's 631-271-8025. Thanks for this opportunity.

13 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.

14 Dr. Matthew Cordaro, followed by Lisa
15 Oldendorp.

16 DR. CORDARO: My name is Matthew Cordaro,
17 and I have spent over 40 years within the energy and
18 utility sectors, including service as the CEO of
19 Nashville Electric, one of the 10 largest public
20 utilities in the nation; and as the president and CEO of
21 the Midwest Independent System Operator, one of the
22 largest grid operators in the United States.

23 Long Island is my home and the place I

1 cherish. It is this deep-seated affection for my
2 community, along with my professional interests, that
3 have kept me active on the issues of energy and
4 sustainability, a key ingredient in safeguarding the
5 fine quality of life we all enjoy from Merrick to
6 Manorhaven to Montauk.

7 The governor's Draft 2014 State Energy Plan
8 focuses on a number of positive initiatives that, if
9 successful, will be good for all of Long Islanders and
10 all New Yorkers.

11 These include the focus on improving energy
12 affordability, promoting private sector engagement and
13 financing, and working to bolster our electric grid.
14 However, there are a number of points within the plan
15 that are debatable and require further consideration.

16 First, having been deeply involved in the
17 industry for decades, I am reasonably sure that demand
18 for electricity will ultimately increase despite the
19 recent flat trend.

20 In 2009, New York put forth a goal of
21 reducing electricity consumption by 15 percent by 2015,
22 yet since that time consumption has grown by 2.5 percent
23 at a time the economy has been soft.

1 Based on this, the state should be more
2 realistic about the potential of energy efficiency
3 initiatives, and openly accept that more generating
4 resources will be required.

5 Second, there has been a troublesome trend
6 among New York policymakers to trumpet the potential of
7 relying more and more on out of state and even out of
8 the country power resources. We simply cannot achieve
9 more affordable power in New York in the long run if we
10 do not increase the amount of in state power sources.

11 At present, efforts are underway to expand
12 access to natural gas energy in New York, especially on
13 Long Island. This is encouraging, because
14 infrastructure constraints have caused the price of
15 natural gas to significantly increase recently.

16 Of particular importance is keeping our
17 existing power sources, especially our state's six
18 nuclear power plants, online. The ongoing campaign to
19 close Indian Point, a major asset to New York's power
20 supply, is deeply concerning because Indian Point
21 provides 2,000 megawatts of reliable, affordable base
22 load energy and serves as the foundation of our electric
23 grid.

1 Long Island lost a major opportunity to have
2 an affordable energy system when it prematurely shut
3 down the Shoreham nuclear facility. This saddled Long
4 Islanders with \$6 billion in debt and imposed some of
5 the highest electric rates in the nation, which persist
6 today.

7 I very much support the goal of working to
8 unleash the power of private sector energy financing;
9 however, there must be a level playing field for this to
10 be effective. The state government cannot selectively
11 subsidize some projects.

12 We should learn from Germany's mistakes.
13 The country's policy of heavy subsidies for intermittent
14 power sources, specifically wind and solar, have driven
15 energy costs through the roof.

16 A recent report from IHS, a leading global
17 energy research firm, found that Germany's rising
18 electricity costs are making the country less
19 competitive internationally, and also found that the
20 country will need to rely more heavily on fossil fuel
21 sources.

22 While wind and solar can and should have a
23 significant role in our energy supply, they are

1 inadequate alone to meet our energy needs. Until
2 effective utility scale energy storage becomes
3 available, which may be many decades down the road, we
4 will either need base load energy sources, like coal,
5 natural gas, nuclear and hydro, or we will need to have
6 all intermittent power sources backed up by spinning
7 reserves of natural gas power plants.

8 The latter isn't cost effective in the long
9 run, to say the least, nor is it efficient and
10 environmentally friendly. Along these lines, before the
11 state commits \$1 billion to the Green Bank, we should
12 clearly define how these funds will be spent, and study
13 how these costs will impact and benefit ratepayers.

14 As you sit and construct the final plan, I
15 urge you to look at the big picture of our energy needs,
16 and how we can meet our growing energy needs while also
17 supporting the state's economy.

18 And I encourage you to construct a final
19 plan that builds on many of the positive initiatives
20 that are outlined in the draft report, while also
21 modifying those proposals that do not.

22 Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.

1 Lisa Oldendorp, followed by Lou Sabatini.

2 MS. OLDENDORP: Thank you very much for this
3 opportunity.

4 New York has a unique opportunity to lead
5 the nation in renewable energy. To reach this goal, the
6 energy plan for New York State must move away from
7 increased investments in gas infrastructure, and must
8 protect our families and water from the devastating
9 effects of fracking.

10 Yesterday, I returned from a visit with my
11 sister who lives in Edmond, Oklahoma, just outside of
12 Oklahoma City. I arrived there on Sunday, February
13 23rd. Earlier in the day, at around two o'clock, a 2.6
14 magnitude earthquake was recorded just six miles north
15 of my sister's home.

16 At 6:11 p.m. the same day, a 3.2 earthquake
17 was recorded just 40 miles northeast of where I was
18 staying. The next day, a 3.0 earthquake was recorded
19 about 25 miles southeast of my sister's home. Then
20 around 10:44 the next morning, a 3.2 magnitude
21 earthquake was recorded a mere 20 miles northeast of
22 where I was.

23 During the previous seven days, the US

1 Geological Survey reported 31 earthquakes in Oklahoma,
2 including 27 with at least a 2.7 magnitude. Earthquakes
3 have occurred in Oklahoma before, but never with the
4 frequency.

5 From 1975 to 2008, central Oklahoma
6 experienced only one to three 3.0 magnitude earthquakes
7 per year. From January 1st to February 20th of 2014,
8 central Oklahoma alone has experienced 25 earthquakes of
9 3.0 magnitude or greater. In fact, the entire state of
10 Oklahoma has already experienced 500 earthquakes of any
11 magnitude since January 1st of this year.

12 Oklahoma is home to more than 4,400 deep
13 injection disposal wells. A 2011 study published in the
14 journal Geology found that liquid injection wells
15 triggered a sequence of earthquakes in Oklahoma.

16 Katie Keranen, a geophysics professor at
17 Cornell, says the evidence is strong that the
18 earthquakes are caused by wastewater disposal, which has
19 become more frequent amid today's boom in oil and gas
20 drilling.

21 In addition, there are other dangers in the
22 fracking process, which include escaping methane gas
23 into the air, the 600 or so chemicals added to the water

1 used in the fracking process, many of which are toxic to
2 humans and animals, the noise and air pollution from the
3 compressors used to frack the wells, and the very high
4 risk of polluting a town's, county's, or even state's
5 water supply.

6 There is another side effect of fracking
7 that has recently come into the spotlight: A shortage
8 of clean water. In southwest Texas and much of Oklahoma
9 there is a severe shortage of pure water. Fracking
10 requires millions of gallons of clean, fresh water each
11 time a well is fracked, and each well can be fracked as
12 many as 12 times.

13 Fracking wastewater, a bi-product of the
14 process, must be disposed of mostly by injecting it deep
15 into wells often near fracking sites.

16 A desperate Texas has tried to buy water
17 from Oklahoma. A huge lake near my sister, Lake
18 Heffner, was a recent target. However, Oklahoma now has
19 laws to prevent another state from taking its water.

20 To be sure, fracking will lead to future
21 water wars as people search for new sources of clean,
22 potable water. Once the water is contaminated, it can
23 never be purified due to the added chemicals.

1 The people of New York do not want fracking
2 to come to New York State. Nearby Pennsylvania is
3 experiencing many of the same problems that are already
4 present in prevalent states that have been fracking much
5 longer.

6 Governor Cuomo must take the lead by moving
7 New York into a clean energy future. Continued reliance
8 on fracked gas and other fossil fuels will send us
9 backward, not forward. New York's energy plan should
10 lead the way by greatly increasing green sources, like
11 wind and solar -- and greatly reducing dependence on gas
12 and oil.

13 In reference to the last speaker's comments
14 that wind and solar, I believe that Dr. Mark something,
15 I can't remember his name.

16 CHAIRMAN RHODES: I am sure it's Mark
17 Jacobson.

18 MS. OLDENDORP: Mark Jacobson, thank you.

19 Already presented Governor Cuomo with a plan
20 to make New York State energy free by 2030. So, it can
21 be done. There has to be a will to do it.

22 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.

23 Lou Sabatini, followed by Eric Weltman.

1 MR. SABATINI: I'm a resident of Massapequa.

2 A year and a half ago I had the unfortunate
3 experience of sitting inside my house, watching my home
4 being filled with water from the flood surge of Sandy.
5 It was a devastating experience, and thousands of my
6 neighbors underwent the same experience.

7 An organization called 350.org has produced
8 scientific evidence that there's a link between carbon
9 that is being produced by fossil fuels and other sources
10 that are dumped into the atmosphere, and the climate
11 change that we have been seeing, the devastating storms,
12 the monster tornados and hurricanes and so forth.

13 So, I strongly advise and advocate that we
14 ban fracking from New York State, we continue to keep it
15 out of New York State and keep it out of all the
16 sources, because I think once the damage is done, it's
17 going to be hard to reverse it. And the longer we wait,
18 the more fossil fuels we burn, the more permanent damage
19 we do to our environment.

20 Thank you.

21 MR. WELTMAN: Eric Weltman, I'm senior
22 organizer with Food and Water Watch, a national
23 non-profit consumer organization based in our Brooklyn

1 office.

2 I am here to urge Governor Cuomo to ban
3 fracking, lead New York in a transition to renewable
4 energy, as well as veto the proposed Port Ambrose
5 liquified natural gas facility.

6 In October of 2012, Hurricane Sandy slammed
7 New York, devastating communities across the region.
8 Even today, many victims of this climate disaster are
9 struggling to pick up the pieces and put their homes and
10 neighborhoods back together.

11 The question today, the question today is
12 whether Governor Cuomo will be a leader in preventing
13 further climate catastrophe. The question today, the
14 question today is whether Governor Cuomo will lead New
15 York in a transition to renewable energy, or deepen our
16 reliance on the dirty fossil fuels that cause climate
17 catastrophes, like Hurricane Sandy.

18 Unfortunately, Governor Cuomo's current
19 Draft Plan would maintain New York's dependence on
20 fossil fuels. It would enable a massive build out of
21 pipelines, compressor stations, storage facilities,
22 power plants, and other infrastructure, and would rely
23 on fracking in other states and stimulate the demand for

1 even more fracking.

2 Already, New York's landscape is becoming
3 littered with dirty and dangerous infrastructure
4 projects, from a compressor station in Minisink, to the
5 Spectra pipeline in Manhattan, and even more being
6 proposed, such as the storage facility in Seneca Lake,
7 and Port Ambrose, liquified natural gas terminal off of
8 Long Beach.

9 These projects risk public safety, our
10 communities and the environment, and they enable
11 fracking, which threatens our water, air, food and
12 climate.

13 We want to highlight the imperative for
14 Governor Cuomo to veto the Port Ambrose proposal. This
15 is something fully within his authority and he should
16 act on it. Port Ambrose would threaten the shore
17 sensitive ecology upon which so much of our region's
18 culture, community and economy are dependent, and it
19 would promote more fracking, because contrary to the
20 proposed plan, the project is clearly being built to
21 export gas.

22 The threat of further climate catastrophe is
23 particularly stark down in Long Island. Burning natural

1 gas will lead to dangerous levels of carbon dioxide;
2 more problematic, fracking for natural gas releases
3 massive amounts of methane.

4 Methane is an extremely potent greenhouse
5 gas, 33 times more efficient at trapping heat than
6 carbon dioxide over a hundred years, and about a hundred
7 times more potent than carbon dioxide over 20 years.

8 The simple truth, the simple truth is that
9 Governor Cuomo cannot lead on climate change and allow
10 fracking in New York. Governor Cuomo cannot lead on
11 climate change and rely on fracked gas from other
12 states.

13 If Governor Cuomo has any hope, any genuine
14 real expectation of attaining his goal of reducing
15 greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent, he must not and
16 he cannot allow fracking in New York.

17 The bottom line is this: New York should
18 not spend another dime on deepening our dependence on
19 natural gas or enabling fracking here or anywhere.
20 Governor Cuomo should ban fracking in New York, he
21 should veto the Port Ambrose LNG facility, and use the
22 full extent of his authority to stop other
23 infrastructure projects.

1 And he should lead, he should lead on
2 preventing climate change by producing a plan that
3 transitions New York to a clean renewable energy future.

4 Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.

6 Clinton Plummer, followed Jay Blackman.

7 MR. PLUMMER: Thank you. My name is Clinton
8 Plummer. I'm vice president of development with Deep
9 Water Wind. And I would like to thank you for giving us
10 this opportunity to speak. We are delighted to be here.

11 I would like to start by applauding the
12 administration on its leadership in economic development
13 and renewable energy policy. With innovative programs
14 like New York Sun, New York Energy Highway, and the
15 launch of the Green Bank, Governor Cuomo is comitted to
16 being a leader in this position.

17 I would also like to commend the plan that
18 has come out in its commitment to exploring resource
19 diversity, the potential to use the plan to create
20 economic development as an opportunity to explore
21 replacement for retiring fossil plants, and as a means
22 of promoting private investment.

23 I would like to request that going forward

1 the plan needs to take into consideration opportunities
2 specific to Long Island. One of those opportunities is
3 offshore wind, which lines up very well with all of
4 those things.

5 Offshore wind has the ability to deliver
6 energy cost effectively when and where it's needed by
7 producing peak output during the middle of the day.

8 It also has the ability to deliver peak
9 output during the middle of the winter when Long Island
10 gas system is most constrained.

11 Offshore wind has the unique ability to
12 create a large local industry that could put hundreds of
13 people here on Long Island to work. We have seen this
14 take effect all around the world. There are 58,000
15 people currently employed in the offshore wind industry
16 globally, with potential to actually reach 200,000 by
17 the end of this decade.

18 That's something that could be done here on
19 Long Island. The US Department of Energy estimates that
20 by 2030 there is as many as 70,000 jobs potential in
21 just the US east coast alone. Even capturing a portion
22 of that would be an absolute boom for the Long Island
23 economy.

1 Offshore wind also has the unique ability to
2 be cost competitive in delivering energy to a
3 constrained coastal population, densely populated areas,
4 where it's difficult and costly to deliver new forms of
5 energy.

6 With that, I would like to ask that the plan
7 consider opportunities to develop offshore wind, and for
8 the state to take a position in the advancement of this
9 new technology.

10 Thank you very much.

11 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Jay Blackman, followed by
12 Anne Hughes.

13 MR. BLACKMAN: I also would like to thank
14 you for the opportunity to speak to you about something
15 that I am very passionate about. My name is Jay
16 Blackman. I am a member of MoveOn.org, public citizen,
17 and Sierra Club.

18 I am here today to tell you how in March of
19 2012 I bore witness to a region of northeastern
20 Pennsylvania that had been a bucolic, pastoral place,
21 now turned into a nightmare for many of its residents
22 due to hydrofracking.

23 We left Long Island as a group of

1 environmental people early on a Saturday morning. And
2 it was a shock to get to the small farming town in
3 Bradford County, Pennsylvania, when we had people board
4 our bus from the area, local farmers, telling us that
5 people were developing chronic cases of nose bleeds,
6 gastrointestinal problems.

7 They told us that clinics had been set up by
8 the hydrofracking company to take care of the many
9 people who were becoming "mysteriously" ill, but had to
10 agree not to talk to the press or anyone in authority as
11 to the suspected cause of the illness.

12 The large tanks of potable water being
13 delivered to their homes by the fracking company because
14 their own water became undrinkable.

15 We were taken to a home in the area that had
16 a hydrofracking well about 200 feet from the house of
17 where we had been invited. We were shown brown water
18 running out of the kitchen faucet. And also a constant
19 flame of burnt off methane gas came from the top of a
20 hundred foot structure over the well.

21 There also happened to be a dead cow lying
22 in a field covered with insects, and someone in our
23 group also noticed that there was an eerie silence due

1 to the lack of birds.

2 In addition, we were told during the week
3 there persisted a constant parade of trucks carrying
4 water, brine and chemicals on their local roads, causing
5 noise, traffic problems and road damage.

6 From all that I witnessed and heard from
7 residents, I hope that you are as convinced as I that
8 you must not allow this to happen in our state. You
9 must protect our families, our water and our
10 infrastructure from the damaging effects of
11 hydrofracking.

12 Our president has comitted our nation to
13 energy by sustainable resources, like wind and solar.
14 We must heed his vision and not allow the harm to
15 communities as I have seen in Pennsylvania.

16 Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.

18 Anne Hughes, followed by Roger Clayman.

19 MS. HUGHES: Good afternoon. I am a member
20 of several environmental groups, but I don't have a
21 prepared statement. I had no idea that I would be
22 sitting up here.

23 I'm a 40-year resident of Long Island. I'm

1 a grandmother of three beautiful young grandchildren.
2 And I personally have just had solar panels installed on
3 my roof.

4 And although solar and wind are not going to
5 take the place of oil and gas immediately, I think the
6 governor needs to propose more incentives for people to
7 drive electric cars, to install solar panels when they
8 can. Solar companies now have a deal with LIPA where
9 you don't even have to buy the solar panels. You merely
10 lease them. And the outlay of cash is minimal, if
11 anything.

12 I know I live in Smithtown and I was
13 encouraged because the building inspector told me that
14 he is inspecting five solar systems a week in my
15 township alone. So, if people have the incentive, they
16 want the solar panels. They want the clean energy. If
17 the governor can do anything to encourage that, it's
18 better than building infrastructures for more gas and
19 oil.

20 Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.

22 Roger Clayman, followed by George Povall.

23 MR. CLAYMAN: My name is Roger Clayman. I

1 am the Executive Director of the Long Island Federation
2 of Labor.

3 I want to thank you for developing this
4 comprehensive plan and for listening to the voices of
5 Long Islanders, who have had a first-hand experience on
6 the front lines with climate and weather-related
7 disasters, and know quite well firsthand the fragility
8 of our energy infrastructure.

9 There is no clear consensus within our labor
10 movement about the balance in our energy supply between
11 fossil fuel and renewable energy sources. And the
12 reason for this is our commitment to representing our
13 members who are employed by utilities currently powered
14 by traditional fuels.

15 We hope you will keep that issue of good
16 jobs at the forefront of your thinking about our energy
17 future -- the jobs associated with power plants,
18 electrical and gas transmission, and the maintenance of
19 these facilities.

20 The unionized jobs in this sector are the
21 foundation of economic vitality in communities all
22 across New York, including jobs in call centers, which
23 are the lifeline between the public utilities and the

1 public that is served by them.

2 At the same time, we recognize that climate
3 change is real. It affects our membership not only as
4 citizens and consumers, but also as workers.

5 Our members were on the front lines with the
6 devastation and cleanup from Hurricane Sandy. Many are
7 still repairing their homes and recovering financially.

8 Our labor movement is fully committed to the
9 green economy and the vast potential that lies before us
10 to create new jobs and to protect the planet at the same
11 time. We are engaged in every aspect of solar energy
12 and solar electrical production at this point, and we
13 look forward to working with these new ideas about wind.

14 We have become very impressed with the ideas
15 put forth by Clinton Plummer, who spoke just before me,
16 the tall guy, and we look forward to working to see that
17 that's developed.

18 We urge you to stay on course with the
19 targets for renewable energy in New York. Without clear
20 goals and timetables, green jobs and the new economy are
21 unlikely to be created.

22 We ask you to keep good jobs in mind
23 throughout the discussion, and ensure that offshore wind

1 energy plays a major role in generating clean energy for
2 New York in the years ahead.

3 Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN RHODES: George Povall.

5 MR. POVALL: My name is George Povall. I am
6 here today to speak as a citizen. I'm also forming my
7 own group called Povall Hour Energy, which is designed
8 to be outreach from the public seeking to become more
9 involved in issues of energy independence and how we get
10 our energy.

11 I want to thank you, Ms. Lee, Mr. Rhodes,
12 Mr. Snyder, Jeanne, for being here today. I know it's
13 not easy to sit here and listen to me and everybody
14 else.

15 You have heard it all. I am not going to
16 say it better than anybody else has. As a citizen, I
17 would like to say that we need to make more commitments
18 towards renewable energy.

19 We have a huge resource sitting offshore
20 here, which really is just a waste not to be using it,
21 and it's really a waste not to be putting more effort
22 into developing it in a huge way. It's being done
23 everywhere else in the world. It's proven.

1 I would really just like to ask for the
2 governor to put a little bit more of a target or a
3 little bit of oomph behind it, saying, let's have a
4 vision. Let's say we can do more. Let's say, who has
5 got the ideas? Bring them forward. Let's do more.

6 I think this would be very important to
7 unleash the green energy economy that, really, everybody
8 agrees is just waiting to be had here. We could build
9 the whole east coast here for them to put them in New
10 Jersey, Maryland.

11 There's lots of great plans. I think we
12 need to have a clear and more concise, but very
13 energetic and opportunistic, plan to take advantage of
14 both the resource and the potential for what it could
15 mean for this state economically.

16 If New York State leads with a clean energy
17 vision, I really foresee it being an industry that would
18 be here for a hundred years. So, I ask the governor:
19 Please, put forth a vision.

20 We went to the moon. We said in seven years
21 that we can go to the moon. Why can't we say in 10
22 years we're going to have 50 percent? If we don't make
23 it, if we made only 40 percent would that be terrible?

1 I don't think so.

2 So, let's have a grand plan. Let's make it
3 big. If we don't make it, what's the worst that
4 happens? We got 50 percent of renewable energy in 10
5 years, in 15 years? I don't know. I don't know what
6 the answer is, but I do know that we do need to have
7 that vision.

8 I would ask the governor to please put
9 something forth like that. It doesn't cost anything.
10 Doesn't even cost political points. Please let him know
11 that.

12 I appreciate all your time here today.
13 Thank you very much.

14 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.

15 Billi Roberti, followed by Donovan Gordon.

16 MS. ROBERTI: I want to make sure I cover
17 all my points, so I have them written down. Thank you
18 for the opportunity to speak. My name is Billi Roberti
19 and I am a homeowner from Huntington.

20 My partner and I completely renovated our
21 small home in 2010 to Energy Star and LEED Silver
22 standards. We weatherized the house and we installed
23 both solar, photovoltaic, PV, and geothermal heat pump

1 systems.

2 Afterward, our total utility costs decreased
3 43 percent. Meanwhile, heating oil prices went up 44
4 percent. We are really glad we did that.

5 As a result of my experience, I was
6 appointed to the Town of Huntington's renewable energy
7 task force. This is the only one of its kind on Long
8 Island. I'm also a member of the Long Island Geothermal
9 Energy Organization, a non-profit association for
10 promoting geothermal heat pumps.

11 For the record, I am against hydraulic
12 fracturing for natural gas, but I will leave that issue
13 for others to discuss. I also support PV systems, but
14 there are many others who endorse that too.

15 So I am here to promote the use of
16 geothermal heat pump systems, GHP. This technology will
17 propel us to achieve many of the goals of the 2014 New
18 York State Draft Energy Plan.

19 I will speak on two of the major goals:
20 Improving energy affordability and reducing
21 environmental impacts. My colleague, Donovan Gordon,
22 will talk also about GHP in his address.

23 Improving energy affordability. Keep New

1 York residential customer electric bills as a percentage
2 of household income at or below the national average.
3 The best way to improve energy affordability is to
4 increase efficiency.

5 The EPA says GHPs can reduce energy
6 consumption up to 44 percent compared to air source heat
7 pumps, and up to 72 percent compared to electric
8 resistance heating, coupled with conventional air
9 conditioning.

10 However, monthly electric bills are not the
11 best measure for tracking energy affordability. Total
12 energy bills should be the target, otherwise, there may
13 be unintended consequences.

14 For instance, reducing or eliminating a
15 fossil fuel bill by switching to GHP will actually
16 increase the electric bill. The metric as defined would
17 force the state to discourage GHPs, even though the
18 total energy bill would be lower.

19 We eliminated our heating oil bill, but our
20 electricity usage has increased. Although our overall
21 energy cost decreased dramatically, it would look like
22 the opposite if our electric bill was the only focus.

23 The metric as defined would force the state

1 to discourage GHPs, as well as other great options, such
2 as plug-in electric vehicles.

3 For many homeowners, price variability over
4 time is just as important as average price, and fossil
5 fuel prices are much more variable than electricity.
6 Switching from fossil fuel GHPs, while increasing
7 electric bill, decreases the overall energy bills and
8 reduces the month-to-month variability.

9 Also, using monthly bills focuses attention
10 on the short term, while this plan takes a long term
11 view.

12 Increase energy efficiency resource
13 deployment. GHPs are the best source to achieve this
14 goal, as they rate 350 percent to 500 percent
15 efficiency. No other HVAC system is as energy
16 efficient.

17 If 20 percent of the 60,000 conventional
18 systems, replaced yearly due to aging and failure, were
19 retrofitted with 3-ton GHPs, the peak load reduction
20 would be 240 megawatt over a 10-year period.

21 This would reduce the need for new power
22 plants and reduce the demand and costs of the power
23 provider.

1 Decrease electric system peak demand. GHPs
2 are the only HVAC system that can reduce the peak demand
3 in summer because they use 25 to 44 percent less
4 electricity than conventional air conditioners.

5 Improve utilization of existing electrical
6 infrastructure. GHPs are the only renewable energy
7 system that shifts electricity usage away from the
8 summer and into the less utilized winter.

9 This levels out demand throughout the year,
10 helping make utility operations more efficient. And it
11 decreases the cost of electricity since peak demand
12 determines its everyday price.

13 Reducing environmental impacts associated
14 with our energy system. Decrease greenhouse gas
15 emissions in New York. GHPs are the technology to
16 achieve this goal because they heat and cool with no
17 emissions.

18 According to Oak Ridge National Laboratory,
19 100,000 average GHP installations reduce greenhouse gas
20 emissions by almost 1.1 million metric tons of carbon
21 during their average 20-year lifespans. GHPs eliminate
22 the need for fossil fuel combustion to heat indoor
23 spaces.

1 Since GHPs do not use fossil fuels, they do
2 not pollute the air. They also eliminate the danger of
3 flue fires, natural gas leaks, and CO poisoning due to
4 poor venting, such as what happened recently at the
5 Legal Seafood restaurant at the Walt Whitman shops on
6 February 22, 2014.

7 If New York State is serious about this
8 goal, GHP systems must have a prominent place in this
9 energy plan.

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.

12 Donovan Gordon, followed by Adrienne
13 Esposito.

14 MR. GORDON: Good afternoon. I'm Donovan
15 Gordon. I live in North Bellmore. I am a LEED Green
16 Associate, a sustainability and renewable energy
17 consultant, and I currently advise Sherman Industry,
18 Inc., one of the largest geothermal designers and
19 installers on Long Island.

20 I'm also a member of the Long Island
21 Chapters for the United States Green Building Council
22 and the Geothermal Energy Organization.

23 I am here, as my previous, my friend Billi,

1 to promote the use of geothermal heat pump systems.
2 This technology will help New York State in achieving
3 many of the goals of your 2014 Draft New York State
4 Energy Plan. It should be a major part of the plan.

5 As far as decreasing, one of your goals is
6 to decrease the number of customers relying on oil, or
7 for paying for heat, natural gas as well. So, I agree
8 with the anti-fracking group.

9 Geothermal heat pump is the best solution to
10 repress that because there's no fossil fuels. I will
11 explain the technology as we go a little further. Also,
12 it is the most efficient heating/cooling system on the
13 market today.

14 As far as unleashing the power of private
15 sector energy financing, this is an extremely critical
16 issue, and I think geothermal heat pumps or geothermal
17 industry in general should have parity with the solar
18 and wind industry as far as investments and incentives
19 go.

20 The ways to increase deployment of
21 geothermal heat pump, the main thing is reducing the
22 upfront cost. That was the major issue with solar
23 initially, and that's been addressed. Now you can have

1 no money down. At least we certainly feel that
2 geothermal heat pump should enjoy that as well.

3 Other things. As sales tax exemption,
4 equipment and materials, solar PV and solar energy
5 enjoyed. Specifying geothermal heat pumps as being
6 eligible for the residential solar income tax credit.
7 That legislation is actually in both houses and waiting
8 to be approved. We certainly hope that's the case.

9 The extension of the income tax program for
10 commercial buildings as well, and financing from the
11 Green Bank for geothermal projects, both public and
12 private. We certainly feel government building schools
13 and large commercial entities should build geothermal,
14 should have geothermal heating and cooling systems.

15 As far as increase cost effective
16 distributed energy deployment, geothermal efficiencies
17 will increase the cost effectiveness of energy
18 deployment, whether by the grid or distributed power.

19 As mentioned earlier, geothermal and solar
20 panel is the perfect marriage because it uses less
21 energy.

22 As far as jobs, as we promote geothermal
23 more aggressively, and there are more and more

1 installations, this will create local jobs for drilling
2 and for excavation, for the HVAC industry, and also the
3 surfacing of these units.

4 What I am going to do is jump to basically
5 some definitions and understanding of geothermal as
6 stated on the NYSERDA website.

7 Geothermal heat pump system. Geothermal
8 pump systems, coupled with building HVAC system to the
9 earth. Geothermal heat pump systems eliminate the need
10 for boilers, cooling towers, etc. Meaning, no fossil
11 fuels, no oil, no gas to heat the building.

12 The ground provides a nearly constant
13 temperature source for BTUs for efficient heating and
14 cooling.

15 So, the benefits, as stated by NYSERDA.
16 Benefits of geothermal. Low operating cost, no required
17 exposed outdoor equipment, so it will last longer.
18 Levels seasonal electric demand. No onsite combustion.
19 This emits no carbon. Long life expectancy; upwards of
20 50 years. Low cost integrated water heating. This also
21 provides heating, cooling and hot water. Simplicity.
22 Low maintenance because everything indoors or buried
23 underneath. No supplemental heating required. And low

1 environmental impact.

2 Both EPA and Department of Energy, along
3 with NYSERDA, says geothermal heating systems are the
4 most cost effective and environmentally friendly way to
5 heat and cool your home.

6 Thank you very much for time and attention.

7 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.

8 Adrienne Esposito, followed by Karin Lind
9 Ralph.

10 MS. ESPOSITO: Good evening. My name is
11 Adrienne Esposito. I'm the Executive Director of
12 Citizens Campaign for the Environment. There are five
13 state environmental organizations at five offices in New
14 York and one in Connecticut, and about 80- to 85,000
15 members.

16 We in New York State want a grass roots
17 environmental organization. We have been reading and
18 assessing and commenting on state energy plans for
19 almost two decades now, and unfortunately, a lot of our
20 comments haven't changed much since the last plan.

21 The one glaring thing about this plan is
22 that it doesn't really contain numerical goals for
23 renewables for wind, offshore wind, solar, geothermal,

1 battery storage.

2 What we would like to see this plan have is
3 specific strong targets assigned with dollar values to
4 the goals that it would state. It doesn't yet do that.

5 The draft plan doesn't provide the clear
6 blueprint we are looking for with aggressive yet
7 achievable goals for renewable energy. We know,
8 regardless of the testimony you may have heard, we know
9 that renewable energy can and should and needs to play a
10 significant role in New York's energy plan.

11 For instance, the New York State Department
12 of Energy's national renewable energy laboratory, not
13 known for its whimsical commentary, has stated that New
14 York State can be supplied 50 percent of its electricity
15 needs from wind power. 50 percent of our electric needs
16 could come from wind power, and yet, not one offshore
17 wind farm exists in New York State. Not one.

18 The viable proposals that have been put
19 forth, the Great Lakes and the Atlantic ocean, have died
20 a slow painful death one by one. Why is that? Well, is
21 it new technology? No. You don't need me to tell you
22 that the first offshore wind farm on the globe was put
23 forth by Denmark in 1991, 23 years ago.

1 Well, how is Europe doing? Well, I'm glad
2 you asked. Europe, as you know, is the number one
3 leader in offshore wind farm development. For instance,
4 the United Kingdom, 3,681 megawatts; America, zero.
5 Denmark, 1,271 megawatts; Belgium, 571 megawatts;
6 America still zero. Germany, 520; the Netherlands, for
7 goodness sakes, 240 megawatts of offshore wind energy.

8 And collectively in Europe there's 6,562
9 megawatts of offshore wind energy generated. America
10 still zero.

11 What has Europe figured out that we haven't?
12 Why does this plan that has been put forward not assign
13 numerical values to offshore wind? That is doable, is
14 obviously working in Europe. It's not new technology.
15 It's not new. It works. We don't need pilot programs.
16 We need to get aggressive. We need to want to do it.
17 We are asking you to include it, assign a real value in
18 a substantive, meaningful way to New York's energy plan.

19 We have that collaborative, New York City,
20 NYPA, LIPA and the MTA is supposed to be working
21 together on south shore. They have moved at pre-global
22 warming glacial speed. That actually could be a clean
23 source of energy to replace Indian Point which should be

1 closed down.

2 Here on Long Island is the new one you have
3 been hearing about, Deepwater Wind. It could generate
4 200, 300, 400, 500, 600 megawatts. We could share that
5 with Rhode Island. Why is it not in the plan? Why is
6 the plan silent on this? Please, don't be silent. We
7 need you to speak up. We need it in writing.

8 Better move along. I have one minute for
9 God sakes. Here we go. What the plan does particularly
10 for Long Island is it causes the transition on Long
11 Island from oil to natural gas. Substituting one fossil
12 fuel for another fossil fuel is not good energy, nor
13 public health policy.

14 The transition to natural gas is a backdoor
15 embracement of hydrofracking. It's not going to work
16 for New York State. Natural gas is not an energy bridge
17 to the future, but rather, it is a highway to climate
18 change, a warmer planet, contaminated water, and
19 polluted air. One that we reject.

20 We want to say that here in Long Island,
21 Judith, John and Jared want to say welcome to ground
22 zero for climate change. We get it. We get it like
23 nobody else gets it, frankly, in New York State, because

1 you may think you got it when you watched the news and
2 saw the devastation, but to be here and to experience
3 it, and to work on the weekend volunteering to rip down
4 people's homes, and take out every single thing they
5 ever owned in life and put it on the curb waiting to get
6 transported away, we know climate change is real. We
7 know we need to make a transition from fossil fuels to
8 cleaner, safe energy, and it's not a sound bite.

9 For us it's a reality. It's a reality that
10 will only become real if we plan for it, and the plan
11 needs to be more aggressive. It needs to embrace wind,
12 solar, geothermal, battery storage, and assigned
13 numerical values. That's how we will get there.

14 Thank you very much.

15 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you.

16 MS. RALPH: Karin Lind Ralph. My name is
17 Karin Lind Ralph, I've been a resident of Long Island
18 all my life.

19 I care very much for what happens here and
20 to New York State, which I happen to love also. I have
21 grave concerns about fracking and effects on the
22 environment. When even the CEO of Exxon doesn't want a
23 fracking well near his home, one has got to question why

1 anybody would want fracking.

2 I guess also, you know, what do you do with
3 these bi-products of fracking? Where does it go? Do
4 you put it back in the earth? Do you keep poisoning the
5 water? And what happens when we don't have anything to
6 drink because of the fracking that's happening all over
7 the country?

8 I just think that having fracking, which
9 only benefits the companies that are doing it, it's
10 really quite criminal to think that it only has to do
11 with greed and money.

12 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.

13 Jane Fasullo, followed by Neal Lewis.

14 MS. FASULLO: Good afternoon. I'm glad you
15 are here. I'm glad the governor has actually created an
16 energy plan we can speak to. It has some really good
17 components.

18 I'm sorry. My name is Jane Fasullo. I'm
19 with the Sierra Club of Long Island. I'm also on the
20 executive committee of the state division of the Sierra
21 Club. And I can go into other things I do, but I'm
22 specifically here today. That's what important.

23 The plan has some loopholes. I think

1 Adrienne said it best in stating that it does not have
2 specific targets throughout the entire plan. Those are
3 missing. It would be nice to see higher numbers, more
4 numbers is what I meant to say, higher in number of
5 numbers.

6 But I would like to speak to certain
7 specific sections of the plan. One of them is to
8 achieve the gas reduction goals that are set in the
9 plan. The governor must implement specific steps
10 involving extending and expanding the state's renewable
11 energy and energy efficiency programs, which has not
12 been spoken to here so far today.

13 It is unnecessary to help meet the
14 greenhouse goals. Most important of these are electric
15 efficiencies, building codes, and renewable energy
16 itself.

17 Much has been said on renewable energy, but
18 I would like to speak a little bit more on electrical
19 efficiency and building codes. That does include the
20 state commitment to 2020 to electric efficiency
21 programs, which are currently set to expire in 2015.
22 That's next year. This commitment must be coupled with
23 target and dollar budgets to capture all cost effective

1 and energy efficiencies across all sectors.

2 In terms of building codes, codes and
3 appliance standards must be updated more regularly, as
4 well as aggressively enforced. Too long the area has
5 suffered from lack of funding and political will to
6 follow through on stated commitments.

7 As buildings account for the lion's share of
8 engineer plans, strengthening codes and standards will
9 both spur economic growth by saving their occupants
10 money each year, as well as reducing emissions.

11 Finally, the plan must include more specific
12 action items and metrics by which to measure the state's
13 followthrough on these commitments.

14 The state can be leading the way by
15 retrofitting the buildings it owns, making them more
16 energy efficient, and by encouraging and aiding
17 municipalities to do the same.

18 Here on Long Island, we have the wind plans
19 which have done that. They would be wise to model after
20 some of what has been accomplished here.

21 I then would like to speak about the
22 transportation section. The transportation sector
23 accounts for the largest portion of New York's

1 greenhouse gas emissions, and historically has also been
2 the fastest growing contributor.

3 New York should continue investing in
4 electric vehicles while also making the necessary
5 regulatory changes at the PSC to remove barriers from
6 electric vehicle adoption involving charging stations.

7 The state should also be electrifying its
8 own vehicle fleet to reduce operating costs and air
9 pollution, as well as reduces carbon emissions from the
10 operation. And again, it should first assist and then
11 require municipalities to do the same.

12 Diesel powered school buses, which we have
13 thousands operating on Long Island, are prime candidates
14 for electrification. Many of their routes are short,
15 but technology has been demonstrated and they can be
16 recharged at night at their depots when demand on the
17 electric system is lowest, and therefore the cost as
18 well.

19 I would next like to address the general
20 topic of affordability. The plan in volume one, page
21 31, refers to the affordability of the plan itself as an
22 overall picture, but it neglects to take into account
23 that the affordability of electricity for New York

1 people and businesses is not just about the cost of our
2 electric or our fuel that we have to pay for. It's
3 about the cost of our health.

4 We need to couple the cost of health with
5 the cost of electricity when we talk about the cost of
6 what we are doing with the energy plan. It is foolish
7 to think that people don't have to pay higher premiums
8 for their health insurance or that the government isn't
9 subsidizing in some way, or that business itself isn't
10 subsidizing the cost of health.

11 We all pay. You cannot look at the cost of
12 energy without looking at the cost to the human being in
13 health.

14 Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.

16 Neal Lewis, followed by John Burke.

17 MR. LEWIS: Good afternoon. My name is Neal
18 Lewis, I'm the Executive Director of Sustainability
19 Institute of Malloy College.

20 I certainly speak in favor of a number of
21 the points that have been made. I'm going to just touch
22 upon them briefly, but my main point today is to
23 recommend action regarding the issue of carbon monoxide

1 hazards.

2 However, I do want to point out that
3 Sustainability Institute of Malloy College has put on
4 viewings of the Gasland movie twice, and are very
5 supportive of effort of the groups that are here calling
6 for a ban on fracking. And our policy suggestion to
7 this plan is perhaps that it should encourage a rule
8 that says you have to at least have seen that film
9 before you can vote on anything regarding the issue.

10 I also generally support the points that
11 have been made that this is more of a vision than a
12 plan, and it needs more metrics, more specific numbers,
13 it's lacking in that area. It's great to see geothermal
14 organizations represented here today, and has made the
15 points about their lack of inclusion in past plans, and
16 how there should be better equity in support of their
17 industries, incentives and renewables.

18 And the issue of municipalities. There's an
19 old executive order. How about a report on updating
20 precisely what was in the executive order, executive
21 order 111, long overdue. No reason why it hasn't ever
22 reported. I have asked about it for years, by the way.

23 With that said, last week there was a tragic

1 death of a man by the name of Stephen Nelson, who I
2 understand, but we will wait to see the specifics in the
3 report, so I will put it out as a question. Was he sick
4 for several days before he passed away?

5 I believe there are thousands of people on
6 Long Island living in homes and going to work every day
7 under circumstances that make them sick. And that is
8 essentially that they are exposed to low levels of
9 carbon monoxide.

10 And in the case where carbon monoxide kills,
11 clearly it has gotten to that higher level, and the
12 question is whether or not your monitor is in place,
13 whether it's not too old, whether it has not been used
14 before and would therefore need to be replaced, and that
15 it's either hardwired or has battery backup. If all
16 those things are in place, hopefully it will save your
17 life.

18 We certainly support the effort to extend
19 the current law from residential and places where people
20 sleep to commercial, but that does not go far enough,
21 and it's an energy issue that should be addressed in the
22 energy plan.

23 The first point is that it should be a

1 requirement for all buildings to have digital monitor
2 readouts. And if you work in a building, you have a
3 right to know that the carbon monoxide that's in your
4 workplace, this is a right to know issue, that it is at
5 a safe level, or it should really be zero.

6 So, you should be able to walk up to a
7 monitor, put your finger on the button, and it will give
8 you the readout.

9 We believe strongly that if you do that what
10 you are going to discover is that many combustion
11 systems have a low level of exposure of carbon monoxide
12 being produced as a result of the fact that they are not
13 working efficiently, and may not be regularly cleaned,
14 and a number of other factors. That's how this ties
15 into being an energy issue, because this is about
16 promoting energy efficiency.

17 We need to be promoting home energy audits.
18 We need to be promoting carbon monoxide tests. As I
19 said, monitors that will pick up these lower levels of
20 exposure that are causing illness, and the illness can
21 cover a range of things.

22 I would point out the experience of one
23 mother who came to us after having had an energy audit

1 done as a result of the advocacy to make her aware of
2 that state program, which is called Green Jobs Green New
3 York program. She got the home energy audit done and
4 she had a carbon monoxide leak in her house that never
5 triggered her alarm.

6 Her son for years suffered from severe
7 migraines, and they could not figure out anything to do
8 about his problem other than to darken his bedroom.
9 This is an energy issue and it should be featured in the
10 energy plan.

11 I found only one mention of the subject in
12 the plan so far. I apologize if there's more in there
13 that I have not been able to find, but certainly it is
14 not an adequate addressment of the issue.

15 I would like to see NYSERDA produce an
16 annual report on what we know about carbon monoxide
17 detection from the home energy audits that were done.
18 We have been asking for this status.

19 Similarly, I think fire marshals should
20 provide us with the data on the broad range of scope of
21 this problem. People don't realize that this is in the
22 thousands of homes that are having problems because they
23 do trigger these monitors.

1 Personal monitors should be provided to EMT
2 people that come to a place and they don't know whether
3 or not there is a gas problem, as was the case with the
4 Legal Seafood incident.

5 Repair personnel. When you get your car
6 tuned up, they take it for a run around the block before
7 they give it back to you. Any repair person that comes
8 into a home, or comes into a business with a combustion,
9 if you work on the combustion system you must do a
10 carbon monoxide test before you leave the premises.
11 That should be the rule.

12 We have ten recommendations, and we really
13 call on the State of New York to really lead the nation
14 on this issue. 170 die every year from carbon monoxide
15 that is not related to automobiles.

16 Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.

18 John Burke, followed by C. Carre.

19 MR. BURKE: Good afternoon. I am John
20 Burke. I'm not a public speaker. I didn't write it
21 down, but I will and I will send it in.

22 I have been working in renewable energy and
23 solar for over 30 years, since 3 Mile Island. We did

1 work to help stop the Shoreham nuclear plant on Long
2 Island with the help of Governor Cuomo. Mario, that is.

3 And since 3 Mile Island, we have been
4 involved with solar energy education and helping people
5 learn about solar, and how to make their own solar
6 panels, as well as doing installations including down at
7 Jones Beach, at the West End One, which is now the
8 Theodore Roosevelt Nature Center, and they installed a
9 so-called geothermal, although it's actually a ground
10 source heat pump, since we don't have volcanos on Long
11 Island.

12 Ground source heat pump uses a lot of
13 electricity. That's why we install photovoltaics on the
14 building at West End One.

15 Speaking of fossil fuel and the fossil fuel
16 addiction that we all suffer from, and we are all in
17 denial of, I would like to point out that fracking, tar
18 sands, oil, natural gas, and any fossil fuel burning,
19 produces carbon monoxide as well as carbon dioxide.

20 As the tundra goes through the climate
21 crisis and the global overheating, it releases the
22 methane that's been trapped underground for millennium
23 or millennia.

1 I want to point out that all of us here have
2 the ability to take a stand for the future, because
3 anything we do today is going to be felt by our
4 grandchildren and their grandchildren.

5 Do we have three minutes remaining? Do we
6 have ten years remaining? When will we get New York
7 State to ban fracking and to ban tar sand oil being
8 shipped through New York State on rail or down the
9 Hudson River? Will we ban the LNG port off Long Beach?

10 I have one question for Andrew and that is:
11 What would Mario do? Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.

13 C. Carre, followed by Anne Mayer.

14 I am not sure if C. Carre is here from Food
15 and Water. So, let's go on to Anne Mayer, followed by
16 Peter Gollon.

17 MS. MAYER: I am a member of Food and Water
18 Watch and many, many other organizations, Healthy
19 Planet. All you can do is look back at the '70s when we
20 were a lot younger and sitting on gas lines and it's
21 just amazing how little has happened between now and
22 then.

23 The unfortunate thing is we don't have

1 another 30 years to fool around with what's happening on
2 a global scale. You look at the New York Times
3 bestseller list, and there's a book called Six
4 Extensions. It's not about politics. It's not about
5 money. It's about survival of the planet.

6 It's about you and your families as well,
7 because we all drink the same water, we breathe the same
8 air, we eat the same food. And we look out west and the
9 water crisis that is happening and here we are taking
10 millions of gallons of water and poisoning it?

11 I don't know if you guys had the good
12 fortune of seeing the expo at the Museum of Natural
13 History on water. And one percent of potable water is
14 drinkable. Even you have to question that with all the
15 poisoning and pollution that's going on.

16 I would like to speak to the gentleman who
17 spoke about Germany as a poor example of solar. You
18 can't compare Germany to New York. We get a lot of sun.
19 And it should be a mandate for every flat building on
20 Long Island, in New York State, should have solar
21 energy.

22 Charging station for cars. There's no
23 excuse at this point. The motto should be first do no

1 harm. We don't want a level playing field with fossil
2 fuels because fossil fuels in terms of health, super
3 cleanups.

4 I have an article here that -- and let me
5 talk about nuclear. Just look at Fukushima. They are
6 not telling the whole thing about that. That issue
7 alone is threatening the life on this planet.

8 An article out of the New York Times -- by
9 the way, I am a mariner. I graduated from SUNY Maritime
10 College, and also I'm an electrical engineer. The
11 article is in February, bakken crude rolling through
12 Albany. This crude is not your average crude. The
13 article points out 400,000 barrels a day heads to the
14 east coast. It's highly flammable and very dangerous.
15 They are not equipped to clean it up.

16 Just go to Riverkeeper website. They have a
17 little information on it. Tank, 600 feet ocean line
18 auto tank that ran aground. If it didn't have a double
19 hull, which is something that I learned about, American
20 flag bearing ships have to have these things, all that
21 work that Pete Seeger did would be in one fell swoop
22 just undone.

23 So, it's just unbelievable. Every day I

1 read the paper and would advise you to all read the New
2 York Times. There's great articles in there. For
3 example, they said that it does not pay to change over
4 bus fleets to gas buses, because when they look at the
5 whole fleet of gas policies, extracting it to the point
6 where it reaches to the bus, more methane is released
7 that doesn't justify the switch from diesel buses to gas
8 buses.

9 These are the kind of articles that you will
10 find in the New York Times, and we have to take a stand.
11 And the time is running out. I really wonder if there
12 will be a planet, and if there will be, it will be very,
13 very, very few because people in the Long Island,
14 LaGuardia airport, we will be underwater.

15 Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.

17 Peter Gollon, followed by Julie Sullivan.

18 MR. GOLLON: Good afternoon. I would like
19 to thank the State Energy Planning Board for the
20 opportunity to comment on the Draft State Energy Plan.

21 My name is Peter Gollon. I have been a
22 resident of Huntington, just a few miles north of here,
23 for the last 35 years. I'm also energy chair of the

1 Long Island Sierra Club.

2 National Sierra Club is the nation's oldest
3 and largest grass roots environmental organization, over
4 35,000 here in the state.

5 We are experiencing a climate crisis.
6 Science is clear, indisputable. Threats to our world's
7 environment. By extension all of us, me and you, the
8 living, are caused by global climate change. A manmade
9 threat caused by increased use of carbon based fossil
10 fuels. Carbon dioxide releases greenhouse gases into
11 the atmosphere.

12 And it's important to emphasize the other
13 gases, because the climate plan talks mostly of carbon
14 dioxide, but other gases are also causing greenhouse
15 effect, more potent on the molecular basis. So, it has
16 to be in terms of carbon dioxide equivalent.

17 We understand and see full well the
18 beginnings of a changed climate, higher average
19 temperatures in winter and summer, leading to the spread
20 of tropical diseases and invasive agricultural pests
21 further north. Higher peak temperatures in the summer,
22 and extensive droughts, couple with more intense storms.

23 Oh, yes. Stronger, more frequent hurricanes

1 and tropical storms. Super storms Irene and Sandy are
2 examples of climate disruption that all of Long
3 Islanders understand.

4 Governor Cuomo has promised that New York
5 will be a leader in addressing climate change. New York
6 can and must follow through on this promise to
7 transition to a renewable energy future. To protect our
8 families from the threat of worsening climate
9 disruption.

10 We must lay out a specific path to
11 immediately begin moving away from totally unsustainable
12 fuels of the past, like coal, gas and nuclear, and
13 toward cleaner global energy solutions of the future.

14 This must be done because our children and
15 grandchildren deserve as habitable a planet as we do.

16 This energy plan must include mandates for
17 enforceable interim steps, emphasis enforceable,
18 emphasis interim, and targets that would meet the
19 state's goals in reducing carbon pollution by 80 percent
20 by 2015, the goal originally established in 2009 under
21 then Governor Paterson.

22 So, tell me. How far along is the state now
23 toward that goal? Or how far behind? Without any

1 meaningful checkpoints along the way between now and
2 2050, we will have no meaningful way to see if we are on
3 track to meet that goal.

4 We need to establish intermediate goals and
5 not be surprised to find in the allotted time we are
6 only halfway to the goal. And we suggest 14 percent
7 target by 2018, compared to the 2011 levels, and 20
8 percent by 2021, to ensure the state is on the
9 appropriate path to comply with the efficiency goals.

10 The goals that relate to electric utilities
11 must be mandatory and enforceable, both as applied to
12 the investor owned utilities and for LIPA, now PSEG Long
13 Island. That was when the public had more input and the
14 board had more control over power purchases than they
15 will next year under the direction of PSEG Long Island.

16 The governor deserves high praise for the
17 New York Sun initiative, which is resulting in enough
18 solar power being installed, rather it's just a part of
19 the mix. New York is now fifth in the nation in terms
20 of solar jobs.

21 As Long Islanders, we are keenly aware of
22 the geography that threaten us through the climate
23 disruption. Fortunately, our geography also presents us

1 with one major solution: Offshore wind. We have
2 abundant offshore wind resources of larger capacity
3 factors and peak production to better match the
4 afternoon and evening wind.

5 There are two projects that are being
6 discussed today, one 130 miles off Montauk, and received
7 from the federal government and is ready to sign a power
8 purchase agreement today.

9 The other is off the Rockaways and it is
10 being pursued at an unknown rate of speed by NYPA. We
11 must proceed expeditiously with both projects. First,
12 so we get the benefits of cleanly produced power at a
13 stable price. Second, we know about price stability
14 just having watched people's electric bills go up
15 because gas went up in the last two months.

16 And secondly, for the development and
17 expertise for the jobs on Long Island, just as it is
18 today in Europe.

19 Now it's time for LIPA PSEG to use this
20 renewable energy procurement process to invest in
21 offshore wind. And solar energy and energy efficiency
22 are important, but we must commit more to wind energy to
23 get renewable energy to scale.

1 Only by continuous focus and developing
2 resources all New Yorkers use will become commonplace
3 and part of the mix in this country as they have been in
4 Europe.

5 Sierra Club calls on the governor to permit
6 land based wind power upstate and moving forward on
7 offshore wind this year off of Long Island's shores.

8 Finally, the energy plan must be followed by
9 specific steps that are to be taken by all entities
10 throughout the state. I refer you to the state's 2010
11 climate action plan, and the plan just released before
12 the end of Mayor Bloomberg's term, New York City's
13 Pathways to Reduction, that have detail required in
14 order to get from here to there.

15 Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you.

17 Julie Sullivan, followed by Bill Feldmann.

18 MS. SULLIVAN: Good afternoon. My name is
19 Julie Sullivan and I am one of half a million members
20 nationwide of Food and Water Watch.

21 New York State's Energy Plan is not a plan.
22 It doesn't design clean energy, although it implies that
23 natural gas is a component of clean energy. Just for

1 the record, it's not.

2 It doesn't recognize the contradiction
3 between reducing fossil fuels, but then facilitating
4 their transportation and export. It doesn't address a
5 ban on fracking or closing nuclear facilities in New
6 York State.

7 A plan must be specific with regard to
8 goals, targets, timelines, and it must quantify costs.
9 It should express a vision, such as targeting the
10 reduction of all fossil fuels, replacing them by energy
11 efficiency and renewable resources. You have to think
12 out of the box, envision something like solar panels in
13 parking lots to energize their shopping centers, their
14 schools, their local communities, while charging
15 vehicles.

16 How does this plan stack up with reality?
17 In actuality, New York State is becoming an export
18 facilitator ruled and controlled by businesses too big
19 to fail.

20 How is this? First, New York is building
21 gas pipelines and plans to build a terminal to import
22 and to export LNG as today's terminals are all becoming
23 bidirectional.

1 Second, New York is improving statewide rail
2 and Hudson River barges to accommodate transport of
3 crude oil from the bakken shale to foreign markets.

4 New York State shouldn't be the stepping
5 stone for the rush to exploit resources in states that
6 are in lockstep with the gas and oil industry. Instead,
7 we need to focus on sustainable energy sources that
8 improve the public health and environment.

9 Wherever states weaken regulations to
10 accommodate industry, people in communities suffer from
11 toxic leaks, emissions, explosions and more.

12 While many of the plan's initiatives, like
13 80 percent emission reduction by 2050, may sound good
14 for New York's energy future, methane is not mentioned.

15 Instead of planning to reduce our dependence
16 on natural gas, initiative 9A, B and C is clearly
17 designed to continue fueling our addiction to this
18 harmful methane leaking fuel.

19 You can't have it both ways. To reduce
20 potent methane emissions, New York must ban fracking,
21 just refuse to partner with other states to strengthen
22 their fossil fuel infrastructure and delivery systems,
23 and refuse to identify foreign customer demand for more

1 gas and liquid fuels, all of which this plan proposes.

2 It talks about keeping prices down, but
3 during the past year natural gas prices nearly tripled,
4 spiking at nearly 8 dollars a thousand cubic feet last
5 month, and will further rise, if exported.

6 So, consider our comment. And help us help
7 you rethink a plan for the future of New York's energy.
8 Thank you.

9 I would like to make another statement on my
10 own behalf. I'm out of time. I will use a minute.

11 I moved to New York, to Long Island 35 years
12 ago, and it was right after the Carter administration.
13 And what we had done is purchased a house in Long Island
14 that is active and passive solar. 35 years ago it was.
15 It continues to operate a 500 square foot segment of
16 solar panels. There's thermal solar, which is mentioned
17 in the plan, by the way. So, it is still considering
18 that.

19 It's been operating continuously. We have
20 no gas, oil or other fossil fuel generating energy heat
21 or any other source of energy in the house. Our bills
22 have averaged way under \$2,000 a month. We have a 2,000
23 square foot house in the middle of Long Island.

1 A year. It's \$2,000 a year without any
2 fossil fuel, direct usage of fossil fuel.

3 Now, after the Carter administration we had
4 the Reagan administration. In the White House, Carter
5 put in solar collectors, which Ronald Reagan, the first
6 action he did was take them down.

7 Now, we could have over 35 years been
8 advancing all the renewable resources, energy resources
9 during that time, and be the world's leader, but we are
10 not. We didn't do that. We followed Ronald Reagan and
11 all his people from industry, and this is where we are
12 today with having to start all over again.

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Bill Feldmann, followed by
15 David Alicea.

16 MR. FELDMANN: Good afternoon. My name is
17 William Feldmann. I am the COO of Empire Clean Energy
18 Supply, also known as ECES, which is located in Bohemia,
19 New York, a stone's throw from Long Island's MacArthur
20 airport.

21 We are a renewable energy equipment
22 distributor specializing in solarPV, solar thermal, and
23 geothermal heat pumps. We are the New York distributor

1 for the patented GeoColumn, a residential ground source
2 heat pump heating and cooling system that uses a truly
3 innovative hybrid design.

4 I am here to testify about the invaluable
5 role geothermal heat pumps can play in New York's energy
6 future. As compared to traditional heating and cooling
7 systems, geothermal heat pumps are safer. They
8 eliminate combustion in the home, which eliminates the
9 need for carbon dioxide detectors.

10 It eliminates sickness and deaths caused by
11 carbon monoxide poisoning. It is less expensive.
12 Lifecycle cost analysis shows a low cost over 20 years
13 when considering the cost of installing and operating
14 the equipment.

15 It utilizes the existing electric
16 distribution system, so it eliminates the need and costs
17 associated with building new natural gas distribution
18 infrastructure.

19 It is better at reducing greenhouse gas
20 emissions. According to the EPA, geothermal heat pumps
21 can reduce energy consumption and corresponding
22 emissions up to 44 percent air source heat pump, and up
23 to 72 percent when compared with electric resistance

1 heating and with standard air conditioning equipment.

2 When you combine the system with
3 photovoltaics, or PV, all emissions, including
4 greenhouse gases, are completely eliminated. In my
5 opinion, the main barrier to widespread adoption is the
6 lack of education in the financial sector about these
7 systems.

8 Once the financial community understands,
9 and more importantly, once they trust the data, all New
10 Yorkers will benefit from a safer, less expensive,
11 cleaner, heating and cooling infrastructure. I ask you
12 to take this to heart in the planning of New York's
13 energy future.

14 In summary, geothermal heat pumps are safer,
15 less expensive, and cleaner than the existing
16 infrastructure and a lack of understanding by the
17 financial sector is a major barrier preventing the
18 widespread adoption of this technology.

19 Please do everything in your power to change
20 this. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.

22 David Alicea, followed by Barnaby Friedman.

23 MR. ALICEA: Thank you. My name is David

1 Alicea and I am the local call organizer for the Sierra
2 Club. I am here on behalf of the millions of members we
3 have and the thousands of supporters we have here on
4 Long Island.

5 We want to thank all the agencies and staff
6 that helped compile the New York Energy Plan and for
7 hearing us speak today.

8 In late 2012, after the devastation of super
9 storm Sandy, Governor Cuomo made it clear climate change
10 is real and we have to act. Since then, the governor
11 has made a strong commitment to solar with New York Sun.
12 And this plan, and its goal of reducing greenhouse gas
13 emissions 80 percent by 2050, shows the governor
14 understands climate change is a serious issue.

15 Unfortunately, the plan has more questions
16 than answers when it comes to how we get to that 2050
17 goal. Our families deserve a stronger plan that will
18 drive investments in renewable energy as wind power,
19 while moving away from dirty fossil fuels.

20 Investments in clean renewable energy like
21 offshore wind here on Long Island can clean up our air
22 and lower energy costs. Specifically, we believe that
23 the plan should have enforceable interim targets for

1 reducing carbon pollution.

2 While the governor's New York Sun initiative
3 is a good start, if New York is serious about reducing
4 carbon pollution, we need a full plan that rejects
5 further investments in fossil fuels, and prioritizes
6 renewable energy.

7 We must commit to expanding, increasing our
8 renewable energy targets to a goal of 50 percent by
9 2025, as well in New York energy efficiency programs
10 past 2015.

11 The energy plan should also do more to
12 explore the opportunity we have to build a new clean
13 energy economy. One of Long Island's most plentiful
14 resources, wind energy, is barely mentioned in this
15 plan.

16 If Governor Cuomo wants to be a climate
17 leader he must make a significant commitment to wind
18 energy. With the projects proposed right now, this is
19 the year for Governor Cuomo to act.

20 Governor Cuomo can purchase offshore wind
21 power from projects off Montauk, move forward with the
22 project proposed by the New York Power Authority off the
23 Rockaways, and make Long Island a wind energy leader.

1 Just a few months ago, Sierra Club, along
2 with the New York Public Interest Research Group,
3 delivered over 13,000 signatures to the governor asking
4 him to make a commitment on wind energy. Polling shows
5 more than 70 percent of Long Islanders believe we need
6 to prioritize offshore wind energy.

7 After seeing the firsthand impact of climate
8 disruption, Long Islanders get it. We need to move off
9 outdated fossil fuels.

10 Long Island is also excited by the
11 opportunity for economic growth of offshore wind. New
12 York has a manufacturing base, an educated workforce and
13 a port infrastructure that can become home to the
14 American offshore wind industry.

15 Long Island can become home to a strong
16 offshore wind industry and fuel a wave of investment and
17 economic growth, much like what we saw when Long Island
18 was home to a strong aerospace industry.

19 But New York is lagging behind. Governors
20 in Massachusetts and Maryland are already moving forward
21 with an energy plan. If Governor Cuomo is serious about
22 bringing jobs and economic investment to Long Island, he
23 can't wait any longer. Long Island is ready for wind.

1 All we need is the governor's leadership.

2 Once again, we're glad to see a goal of 80
3 percent reduction by 2050, but action on climate change
4 can't wait until then. Super storm Sandy showed us all.
5 Our communities are at risk now. Will the next
6 generation be able to enjoy Long Island's famed beaches
7 or the boardwalk at Long Beach? Will families who have
8 lived for generations on the south shore be forced to
9 move?

10 We need Governor Cuomo and this energy plan
11 to make sure we are protecting our communities, make a
12 strong commitment on renewable energy, and a real plan
13 that explains how we can get there.

14 Thank you once again for your time. I hope
15 you take my statements and the others made by friends
16 that have spoken and will be speaking, and use those to
17 revisit this energy plan to help New York become a real
18 climate leader.

19 Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.

21 Barnaby Friedman, followed by Gordon Canary.

22 MR. FRIEDMAN: My name is Barnaby Friedman,
23 and I'm the Program Manager for Renewable Energy Long

1 Island.

2 First, I would like to thank the New York
3 State Energy Planning Board for allowing this public
4 input on their energy plan.

5 Renewable Energy Long Island is a
6 not-for-profit whose mission is to educate and promote
7 the use of clean sustainable energy use and generation
8 on Long Island.

9 Our position on the 2014 New York State
10 Energy Plan is that it needs to be more aggressive in
11 its support of investment in renewable energy. If New
12 York follows its current path, it will not achieve its
13 goal of an 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gases by
14 2050.

15 New York State needs to realize that the
16 only way to reach this goal is to stop spending money on
17 fossil fuel based energy. Instead, New York needs to
18 commit its resources towards the expanded, land based
19 and offshore wind, which together can provide a large
20 percentage of the energy you require.

21 Let's take advantage of the remarkable wind
22 resource we have blowing just offshore. In addition to
23 wind, we need to put more money into solar and

1 geothermal energy production.

2 If this plan commits more resources to
3 renewable energy, we will have the added benefit of
4 creating an entirely new sector of jobs, but that is not
5 enough.

6 In addition to increasing funding for
7 renewable energy, this plan needs to include expanding
8 both home and business efficiency programs, so that
9 while we expand our renewable energy production, we
10 strengthen the amount of electricity we use.

11 Let's use this opportunity to build this
12 plan into a model that the rest of the country can
13 follow as a roadmap to combat climate change.

14 Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.

16 Gordon Canary, followed by Lynn Meyer.

17 MR. CANARY: Good afternoon, my name is
18 Gordon Canary. I'm the District Office Director for New
19 York State Senator Phil Boyle. Unfortunately, Senator
20 Boyle has been called into session in Albany, and he has
21 asked me to represent him here today. I will be reading
22 the senator's comments to the planning board for the
23 record.

1 I would like to thank the New York Energy
2 Planning Board for hosting today's important hearing.
3 Thank you for allowing my District Office Director
4 Gordon Canary to attend today's event as my
5 representative.

6 I wish I could be there personally to
7 discuss renewable energy issues here on Long Island and
8 throughout our state, but I was called to Albany today
9 for our legislative session.

10 I read the 2014 New York Energy Plan with
11 great disappointment in that more emphasis was not
12 placed on renewable energy sources. It seems that some
13 officials in Albany are more interested in talking about
14 renewables than actually acting to make New York State a
15 leader in this area.

16 Well, the time for talk is over. One of the
17 areas of renewable energy that we as Long Islanders can
18 rally behind is offshore wind. While upstate New York
19 reaps the benefits of cheaper hydropower, we actually
20 play to our strength here on Long Island. Yes, we live
21 on an island. It is a region where average wind speeds
22 are higher than in many other areas of our state and
23 nation.

1 Offshore wind energy has had some somewhat
2 controversial history here on Long Island with some
3 residents concerned that massive windmills will spoil
4 the view from our beloved beaches.

5 I would note that some of the new proposals
6 for wind farms now being considered for our coastlines
7 would barely be visible from our beaches, if at all.

8 As we speak, there are dozens of offshore
9 wind farms in Europe. There are a dozen more planned in
10 the coming years. Why are there none in New York? Why
11 is there not even one anywhere in the United States?

12 I want to see our state lead the way for
13 offshore wind in this country as we strive to lead the
14 nation in all renewable energy sources.

15 Offshore wind will provide clean renewable
16 energy, which will reduce air pollution and greenhouse
17 gases. Equally important, offshore wind will provide
18 jobs for New Yorkers and lots of them.

19 As we meet in Albany to negotiate the
20 2014-15 New York State budget, I call on the governor
21 and the state legislative leaders to put our money where
22 our mouths are. It is time to stop talking and start
23 acting to increase renewable energy alternatives here in

1 the Empire State, and for New York to lead the way on
2 offshore wind energy.

3 Thank you for taking my comments into
4 consideration.

5 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.

6 Lynn Meyer, followed by Donovan Gordon. At
7 that point I propose a break.

8 MS. MEYER: I'm Lynn Meyer. I am here today
9 as a lifelong New York resident, also as a board member
10 of White Roof Project. We are a non-profit group
11 operating mostly in Manhattan. We raise money to coat
12 roofs that are currently black tar with white, highly
13 reflective coating, which enables them to save up to 40
14 percent of energy in the summer, as well as reducing
15 urban heat island effect.

16 We propose that New York State tighten its
17 building codes to include a roofing provision, such as
18 New York City currently does, which states that
19 buildings who are renovating their roofs must use a
20 white coating in the case of black tar coated flat
21 roofs.

22 New York State could also require that
23 homeowners with a typical steeped roof use roofing

1 shingles approved by Energy Star or LEED, which would
2 save a great deal in the summer energy costs.

3 As a New York resident, I also agree with
4 everything that has been said before about banning
5 fracking in New York State. I would like to see New
6 York State become a leader in wind and solar energy so
7 that I can leave a better state for my children and
8 grandchildren.

9 Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.

11 Donovan Gordon.

12 (There was no response.)

13 John Rhyner.

14 MR. RHYNER: Good afternoon. My name is
15 John Rhyner. I am a practicing geologist and
16 environmental consultant here working on Long Island.

17 Like many people have talked about, I would
18 like to talk in favor of the geothermal heat pump
19 systems, along with the other renewables in that
20 category.

21 I've been working in the industry for about
22 15 years now. Currently I am also a board member of the
23 Long Island Geothermal Energy Organization. I'm going

1 to try not to trip through my notes here.

2 I had to delete a lot of it, espousing on
3 the technology. We are not talking about the hot rock
4 geology. We do not have magnum around here.

5 But, fortunately, wherever you can get a
6 drill rig you can use geothermal. It's viable
7 everywhere in the state. Long Island is ideal
8 territory. I believe that it deserves better attention
9 from the state than it has received in the past due to
10 its many benefits.

11 First, it was fully endorsed by the federal
12 government, as has been said. Both the Department of
13 Energy and EPA have fully endorsed, as has the GSA,
14 largest landlord in the country, as well as the numerous
15 federal bases that are using geothermal systems on a
16 large scale. So, certainly it's scaleable technology as
17 well as possible for individual residential houses.

18 I believe it's deserving parity with the
19 other renewables. And you may know that some of the
20 surrounding states -- Massachusetts, New Hampshire,
21 Maryland -- they all have designated geothermal as
22 renewable akin to solar and wind, or as providing a
23 useful thermal energy, so they can incorporate these

1 definitions into legislation. And that has allowed the
2 state utilities in these -- electric utilities in the
3 states to be able to use geothermal systems as they
4 support and finance and incentivize towards their
5 renewable portfolio standards.

6 And Vermont and many other states are moving
7 in that direction. So, they are falling like a house of
8 cards, and New York is right in line with all the New
9 England states.

10 So, I would certainly ask you to consider
11 that and be prepared for it because it's coming. It's
12 been a quiet industry. We are mobilizing with the LI
13 Geo, with New York Geo, New England Geo, NESPA, Maryland
14 Geo. We are finally developing a voice for ourselves.

15 It's been a quiet technology up until now.
16 It's buried in the ground. It's not on a house. It's
17 not on a windmill. But it's coming. So, it has
18 tremendous benefits. There has been talk of shedding
19 the summer load, diverting the use of the electrical
20 grid to the winter, and it fully can replace fossil fuel
21 for heating.

22 One of the governor's own efforts, the Clean
23 Communities initiative, the Greater Long Island Clean

1 Communities report acknowledged geothermal heat pumps as
2 a good goal to retrofit HVAC systems, particularly where
3 gas is not available, which is a very huge building
4 stock on Long Island, and the houses are just using oil
5 based fossil fuel for heating. They don't have access
6 to gas. So, one of the governor's own initiatives has
7 promoted that.

8 What else? What else can I say? So, my
9 recommendations or actions, suggested actions would be
10 certainly geothermal should be included in the energy
11 plan, particularly in the Green Bank program, because it
12 does have a higher first cost and financing needs to be
13 behind this.

14 NYSERDA should issue RFPs to engage flex tex
15 contractors who are specifically experienced in
16 conducting geothermal feasibility studies, in addition
17 to the other more conventional HVAC systems that are
18 looked at. People should have the option, if they want,
19 to look at geothermal as an option and instead of a
20 fossil fuel based heating system.

21 Geothermal can be mandated as part of new
22 construction and it is scaleable. Europe is prevalent
23 with district heating and cooling systems. I've done

1 some feasibility studies here in the state, but there's
2 been no takers. So, it certainly is scaleable.

3 I thank you for your time.

4 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.

5 We will now take a break. I hope to keep it
6 at five minutes.

7 (Recess taken.)

8 CHAIRMAN RHODES: I am going to call the
9 break and we will resume.

10 Mary Helen Crump, followed by Rav Freidel.

11 MS. CRUMP: Thank you for coming out and
12 hearing our thoughts. It means a great deal. We really
13 have some deep thinkers here.

14 I have lived all my life on Long Island's
15 south shore in Lindenhurst. We took the biggest hit
16 from hurricane Sandy, located east of the eye. We
17 experienced the highest water level of the storm at
18 14.58 feet, slightly higher than the infamous Battery
19 Park flood.

20 The 9.34 foot storm surge came despite
21 barrier islands that remained intact. In our case,
22 winds from the east end of Great South Bay and three
23 successive high tides flooded Lindenhurst up to and cut

1 off Montauk State Highway. This time it was
2 Lindenhurst. Next time it will be another south shore
3 community cleaning up after living along hurricane
4 alley.

5 As oceans continue to heat up with
6 increasing levels of greenhouse gases, the hurricane
7 Sandys may be more the storms of the decade than of the
8 century for us. Climate change is real.

9 Therefore, I believe there is new urgency in
10 meeting the state's goal of reducing carbon pollution 80
11 percent by 2050. To meet that goal, I am proposing five
12 additions and/or clarifications to the energy plan.

13 First, concerning hydraulic fracturing, we
14 know of the unacceptable extent of environmental damage
15 by fracking. Drillers would like the state to open the
16 southern tier Marcellus shale deposits.

17 I view fracking as not so much a plan, but
18 as a failure to plan, to mitigate greenhouse gases. It
19 does not belong in the energy plan. I believe we need a
20 10 year moratorium on hydraulic fracturing of natural
21 gas in the state to put off, and hopefully fully deter
22 mining, when and until the science is fully known and
23 consequences deemed acceptable.

1 Two, concerning the principal of
2 environmental justice, it appears in volume 2, chapter
3 2, I believe real justice would advocate not only what
4 you call meaningful involvement, but what I could call
5 self determination. I have in mind the southern tier's
6 distress over the potential to opening it to fracking.

7 As an opponent to fracking, I want to see
8 specific environmental justice and self determination
9 rights written into this plan.

10 Three, I propose to meet the 80 percent
11 carbon reduction goal with a carbon tax. Carbon taxing
12 is based on the relative pollution of fossil fuels. For
13 example, a carbon tax program was instituted in
14 Vancouver, British Columbia, which is its largest city,
15 from 2008 to 2012, on sales of all carbon products that
16 excluded air travel.

17 Vancouver succeeded in lowering fossil fuel
18 purchases over 17 percent, while the rest of Canada rose
19 one and a half percent. Greenhouse gas emissions
20 dropped in Canada from 2008 to 2011. British Columbia's
21 greenhouse emissions dropped nearly 9 percent more than
22 all of Canada.

23 A carbon tax deserves to appear in the

1 energy plan. My source is noted in my thinkprogress.org
2 transcript.

3 Point four, I propose to meet the 80 percent
4 carbon reduction goal with offshore wind farms. For
5 example, an offshore wind farm is nearing reality in
6 Nantucket Sound, and would be the first American
7 offshore farm. The Cape Wind project, if built, would
8 include 130 wind turbines, providing 75 percent of Cape
9 Cod, Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard's needs. Why not
10 us? Offshore wind farms could be a reality off Long
11 Island and should be pursued in the energy plan.

12 And finally, I propose to meet the 80
13 percent carbon reduction goal with a solar and PV
14 consumer program that really works. I am now in the
15 lengthy application process with PSEG, but wonder when
16 will I see my own power generation? To wit, I know
17 someone whose panels were fully installed in September
18 of last year, but as of late February, five months
19 later, had yet to use them because PSEG has not
20 installed the two-way meter.

21 Imagine that. Wink. I suspect that the
22 current funding is just inadequate to meet the demand.

23 In summary, I would like to see planning to

1 meet the 80 percent carbon reduction goal through
2 conservation with a carbon tax and with more renewable
3 funding for offshore wind farms and solar. I also need
4 to see the southern tier Marcellus shale mining entirely
5 off the table.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.

8 Rav Freidel, followed by Robert Frankum.

9 MR. FREIDEL: My name is Rav Freidel. I
10 represent the Concerned Citizens of Montauk, an
11 environmental organization founded in 1970. We have
12 1,000 members. Some are in the fishing industry.
13 Montauk has the largest commercial fishing fleet in the
14 State of New York.

15 The New York State Draft Energy Plan isn't
16 clean enough for Concerned Citizens of Montauk. It is
17 clean enough if you were Liberty Gas, a Cayman Island
18 corporation, which has twice been vetoed by New Jersey
19 Governor Chris Christie, and is now trying to
20 industrialize the New York side with LNG Port Ambrose.

21 It's clean enough if you think fracking and
22 burning shale gas won't release an even more potent
23 greenhouse gas, methane, which will melt the polar ice

1 faster, rise the sea levels faster, turn the ocean acid
2 and kill off the coral reefs and food chain even after.

3 Think it's clean enough if you are one of
4 the politicians or big environmental organizations
5 that's taken money from Liberty Gas and has remained
6 silent on the plan to industrialize the ocean and export
7 LNG.

8 Trace Duran, former head of the East Camden
9 Town Republican party, introduces me as his land
10 preservationist. I've been at it since 1982. I can
11 tell you that all along the way for every land parcel,
12 everybody told CCOM to forget it. You can't save you
13 can't save the sanctuary. You can't save Caroga lake.
14 You can't save the camp here. You can't save Amsterdam
15 beach. Folks, they are all saved.

16 Today, more than 70 percent of Montauk is
17 preserved as parkland for present and future generations
18 thanks to CCOM. CCOM has the can do spirit. New
19 Yorkers have the can do spirit. America has the can do
20 spirit.

21 Somebody said before, and I'll repeat it.
22 When I was a boy, the Russians sent a man in space.
23 John F. Kennedy told us we're not a rocket. We are

1 exploding up on the launching pads. In 10 years we will
2 land a man on the moon. We did the impossible. Good
3 old American ingenuity and know how put a man on the
4 moon in 10 years.

5 You bet I believe in the can do spirit of
6 America. It's in that spirit that I urge you to throw
7 out this draft energy plan and start with a clean sheet
8 of paper. Bring us a plan where the only energy
9 generation allowed in the ocean is clean renewable
10 energy, like wind, solar and geothermal.

11 Bring us a plan where they will have no
12 BP-type oil spills, no LNG explosions or other deadly
13 industrial pollution. Bring us a plan that protects the
14 fishing industry, not the fracking industry.

15 Bring us a plan that calls fracking what it
16 is, not a bridge fuel but another dirty carbon based
17 fuel. We might as well be burning coal if we burn shale
18 gas.

19 Bring us a plan that prohibits New York from
20 both fracking and importing fracked shale gas, or any
21 electricity produced from fracking. No, it's not okay
22 for other states to pollute their air and water and cook
23 the life out of the planet to provide energy.

1 Bring us a plan that puts solar panels on
2 every rooftop in New York, and leads New York, the
3 nation, and the world to a zero carbon economy. And
4 most importantly, bring us a plan that takes ten years
5 to do it.

6 In the 1970s, Walter Cronkite was telling us
7 we have got an energy crisis. We are in the 2014s.
8 Come on. We can't wait until 2050.

9 I urge you to think of climate change as an
10 iceberg and you as the captains of the Titanic. Big
11 energy is telling you, don't worry, your ship is
12 unsinkable. Keep going full speed ahead.

13 The world scientific community is telling
14 you you've got an iceberg ahead of you, slow down and
15 change course immediately.

16 For the Concerned Citizens of Montauk, I
17 urge you to change course immediately. I urge you to
18 remember what that metaphor called iceberg is. It's
19 more hurricane Katrinas, more super storm Sandys, more
20 droughts, more wildfires, deadly tornados and colder
21 weather in Atlanta than Alaska. It's faster sea level
22 rise and the acidification of the ocean.

23 It's what Secretary of State John Kerry

1 called the greatest challenge of our generation. A
2 greater threat than disease, poverty, terrorism or
3 weapons of mass destruction.

4 I urge you to change course and create a
5 zero carbon plan in New York State for your children and
6 for your children's children.

7 I have one more comment. 18 miles north of
8 Montauk is a ticking time bomb, Millstone nuclear power
9 station. It was built around the time of Chernobyl and
10 should have been decommissioned years ago, long before
11 we heard of the nightmare called Fukushima.

12 Millstone's horrible safety record made the
13 cover of Time Magazine. Despite the protest of eastern
14 Long Island, the United States Nuclear Regulatory
15 Commission, which is 96 percent funded by industry,
16 extended the life of Millstone. It will be 80 years old
17 when it's decommissioned.

18 Let me ask you something: Did you arrive
19 here in today in an 80 year old car? Did you take an 80
20 year old bus or an 80 year old train? Does the Navy use
21 80 year old ships? Or our Air Force use 80 year old
22 planes? Of course not.

23 Yet somehow it's okay to have an 80 year old

1 nuclear reactor in this country. Once these things are
2 built, there's no getting rid of them.

3 Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.

5 Once again, I do ask us to respect the time
6 limit. We want to hear from all the speakers. We have
7 a couple more trickling in. It's a courtesy in fairness
8 to those who wish to comment.

9 Robert Frankum, to be followed by Laurie
10 Heinitz.

11 MR. FRANKUM: I am a lucky resident of a
12 progressive state, New York. Thank God I don't live in
13 Louisiana or Mississippi or Texas or some other places.
14 I hope New York will continue to be progressive in
15 looking forward to new technologies, not looking back.

16 I note with some sense of irony and
17 bemusement the bottled water, the frivolous waste of
18 some of our non-renewable resources. I hope we're not
19 doomed to privatize water. And I did notice some good
20 citizens here in the audience brought their own
21 refillable water bottles. Just a little something I
22 picked up on the way.

23 I am also a lucky resident of Huntington.

1 My wife and I brought up our two children in that
2 community. We're glad to be there and hope the quality
3 of life will continue to be what it has been.

4 I would like to respond to Dr. Cordara's
5 comment about Germany. I lived in Germany for three
6 years in the 1960s, when life was very frugal, and I
7 have been back several times since then. And I've
8 noticed the progress that country has made.

9 It is a progressive country. It's
10 progressed politically from its horrible history and
11 it's progressed economically. It is now, as I am sure
12 everybody here knows, the number one economic power in
13 Europe. And it is on a course to eliminate all nuclear
14 energy. I am convinced that Germany will succeed in
15 this.

16 Could I bend the golden rule a little bit
17 and say, thinking of a very, shall we say, notorious CEO
18 at this point. Do not frack others unless you would
19 have them frack you.

20 What else can I say? There is so much that
21 has already been said, but people complain about the
22 government subsidies of alternative energy plans. By
23 golly, let's subsidize some alternative energy. We have

1 been subsidizing the oil and gas industries for decades.
2 That's a simple fact.

3 Let's give a little kick to solar energy,
4 geothermal. Tidal generators, I haven't heard that
5 mentioned. I don't know anything about them, but it
6 seems to me on Long Island it would certainly be a
7 viable alternative. There is more I would say, but I
8 think let's just look forward.

9 I will make one comment. I read in the New
10 York Times several years ago about a Bavarian pig
11 farmer. He had solar panels on his farm. Farms in New
12 York are not large. It's a very dense population so
13 farms are small, but he powered up the entire
14 neighboring village with his solar panels.

15 If they can do that in Germany in that kind
16 of climate, why can't we power up our homes that way?

17 Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.

19 Robert Heintz.

20 (There was no response.)

21 Mike Bailey, followed by Eugene Falik.

22 MR. BAILEY: Good afternoon. My name is
23 Mike Bailey. I am a trustee from the Village of

1 Malverne.

2 I would like to begin by thanking you all,
3 particularly Mr. Rhodes, formerly of the National
4 Resources Defense Council, for your activities chairing
5 this wide ranging process.

6 As a lifelong resident of New York, I'm
7 proud that the New York State Draft Energy Plan set
8 forth a big vision for New York State's future energy.
9 Quoting, the boldness of our solutions should match the
10 magnitude of our challenges.

11 I would like to briefly comment on three
12 items today. First, as has been mentioned earlier, the
13 ground source heat pump geothermal projects.

14 In Malverne, the mayor and the board of
15 trustees have committed to saving tax money for
16 residents with careful support of renewable and
17 sustainable energy, including the soon to be completed
18 ground source geothermal HVAC project in our own village
19 hall.

20 The Cleaner Greener Long Island Regional
21 Sustainability Plan, which was mentioned earlier, Neal
22 Lewis who spoke earlier is the co-chair of that,
23 included a strategy regarding this to encourage

1 geothermal heat pump projects through education and
2 incentives. It proposed the largest greenhouse gas
3 savings of all the strategies considered on Long Island.

4 The State Energy Plan should provide much
5 stronger support for greatly expanding its clean,
6 efficient and smart technology.

7 Second, the Champlain-Hudson electric cable,
8 which I don't believe has been mentioned today, I would
9 like to ask if it's possible to consider bringing a
10 sister cable along the route that could provide clean
11 low cost electricity to Long Island, so that we could
12 eliminate some of our outdated generation capacity.

13 And finally, electric vehicles and T to G
14 storage, which has not been heavily discussed today. As
15 identified in the impacts and consideration section of
16 the plan, findings about the transportation sector in
17 2011, the transportation sector is responsible for 27
18 percent of the primary energy use in the state, 77
19 percent of all petroleum consumption in the state.

20 Produced 34 percent of our total greenhouse
21 gas emissions, and worst still, 42 percent of the CO2
22 emissions from fuel consumption is just under 75 million
23 metric tons of CO2 emissions each year.

1 It's good that there are important goals
2 identified in the Draft Energy Plan concerning
3 alternatives to internal combustion vehicles, and
4 specifically electric vehicles. It's noted that the
5 number of alternative fueled vehicles has been
6 expanding, and New York aims to build on this momentum
7 through strategic investments and policies.

8 And the stated goal is to increase the
9 number of alternative fueled vehicles registered to one
10 million by 2025. However, it should be noted that this
11 is less than a 10 percent market share based on the 10.6
12 million vehicles, cars already registered in the state
13 today.

14 As also stated in volume two of the plan, in
15 July of 2012 alternative fuel vehicles already
16 represented 5.8 percent of the registered vehicles in
17 the state. The percentage has grown by 2.2 percentage
18 points in just two years.

19 So, the goal, though more than a decade
20 away, rejects a four-fold reduction in the current
21 growth rate to less than half a percent a year. It
22 seems the objectives in this area are very timid,
23 particularly in light of the pace of growth that's

1 already being achieved.

2 The vision section sees a future of clean
3 energy jobs, urban renewable, sustainable development
4 and affordable energy and transportation, and the
5 economic opportunity to achieve scale development of
6 energy technology and services.

7 However, this disconnect between the stated
8 goals and the opportunities, in volume two it's stated
9 that the electric grid has enough capacity to supply
10 electricity to EVs without major investments. And the
11 smart grid and technologies built into the electric
12 vehicles can enable smart charging or charging during
13 off peak hours to help ease grid capacity.

14 EVs can also help ease electrical demand by
15 providing vehicle to grid power. It's all noted in the
16 plan. However, increasing the efficiency of the grid is
17 a major goal, but it misses the opportunity to seize the
18 leadership.

19 There is a global competition going on today
20 to create the new Motown for electric vehicles. If the
21 boldness of our solutions should match the magnitude of
22 our changes, then the opportunity for grid storage,
23 reduction of gasoline usage, and dramatic reduction of

1 greenhouse gases should be accelerated to seize the
2 opportunity with leadership and economic development.

3 Thank you for your time.

4 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.

5 Eugene Falik, followed by Judy Beck.

6 MR. FALIK: Let me depart from my prepared
7 remarks for a moment.

8 I don't know that fracking is bad. I think
9 the desirable way to achieve fracking would be to
10 consult with Mr. Harry Potter or Hermione Granger, but
11 in their absence, I think that we need to take into
12 consideration that the state constitution requires that
13 the forest preserve be maintained forever wild.

14 The New York City watershed is aided in New
15 York City by our own water supply police, backed up by
16 the city police. And I think if necessary to protect
17 the water supply system they would be used.

18 Also, you need to consider that there is a
19 Delaware River Basin Commission which regulates the
20 watershed. As I understand it, the fracking is
21 scheduled to take place in the Catskill forest preserve
22 and the New York City watershed.

23 So, what will happen if these people were to

1 contaminate the water supply system? They promise not
2 to, but I think that regulations must be adopted to
3 require anyone fracking to post a bond large enough to
4 secure the cost of repairing any damage to public or
5 private property that they might cause.

6 Anyone engaged in the process of fracking
7 should be required to demonstrate the resources
8 necessary to replace any public infrastructure that
9 might be damaged in a timely manner. By that I mean
10 without danger to public safety and without unreasonably
11 inconveniencing the public.

12 Water supplies should be replaced within 12
13 hours, electricity within 48 hours in winter and 96
14 hours in summer. Emergency communications, the ability
15 to call 911, as well as emergency services internal
16 communication, should be repaired within 24 hours.

17 And note that Verizon has an active policy,
18 number one, of increasing electricity usage by switching
19 people to FIOS, which requires electricity use in every
20 home to call 911. That is less efficient than their
21 current copper based system where they supply the system
22 out of the central offices.

23 Special attention must be given to the risks

1 and costs involved in contamination of the New York City
2 water supply system. What's the probability that
3 fracking problem could contaminate the entire Delaware
4 and Catskill reservoir system? What's the backup plan
5 if the aqueducts were to be compromised? Could the
6 reservoirs be flushed by dumping water into the Delaware
7 or Hudson River? What would the impact be on the water
8 levels downstream? Drinking levels downstream? How
9 long would it take to flush the reservoir?

10 The New York City reservoir system impounds
11 a half a trillion gallons of water. How long would it
12 take to repair and flush it? How could over a billion
13 gallons of water be supplied to New York City and
14 Westchester supply customers with trucks? Are there
15 enough trucks in the country?

16 What would the impact be on the federal
17 government if New York City, which is responsible for
18 approximately one tenth of the economic activity in the
19 country, had to be shut down? Where would people go for
20 shelter?

21 Let me just quickly touch on a couple of
22 other things. Alternative generation. I think every
23 flat roof should be required, through a taxing system,

1 to have electric generation on the roof providing it has
2 the physical ability to support it. I think there
3 should be a tax if people choose not to do that.

4 I think all electric lamps sold in New York
5 should be required to have adequate information -- date
6 of manufacture, true nominal wattage, color, lumens and
7 lumens per watts. They should be required to have a
8 minimal 49 month guarantee based on the manufacture
9 date.

10 People should not need to hold the receipt.
11 Any store selling particular brands should be required
12 to redeem a defective lamp or a lamp that fails to
13 maintain adequate luminosity.

14 There should be a penalty of \$100 per lamp
15 when someone sells a lamp that consumes more than 20
16 watts and fails to provide at least 30 lumens per watt.
17 That would effectively outlaw all incandescence and all
18 halogens.

19 There should be a penalty of \$100 per
20 electric control device, such as switches and dimmers,
21 that don't operate with these new bulbs. It's
22 unconscionable that we have major retailers today
23 selling switches that won't operate with these new

1 lamps. Unconscionable I say.

2 There should be minimum standards for
3 electric motors, for internal combustion engines like
4 gasoline blowers and snowblowers. I think you also need
5 to look at the environmental impact of mass transit.

6 And I don't want to attack mass transit, but
7 I think we need to know: Is there really a net saving
8 when we take into account the energy used in operating
9 the equipment? Not really a revenue service, but moving
10 the equipment around, and heating and cooling the
11 building where this equipment is maintained in the
12 offices, and people running around to go to work on
13 these systems.

14 We ought to know what the true cost is. And
15 we also need to know that electric cars are not
16 pollution free. Somewhere, the electricity is
17 generated. It does not appear at our homes by magic.
18 You need to talk about that in your plan, I believe.

19 Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.

21 Judy Beck, followed by Terry Marrome.

22 Is Judy Beck here?

23 (There was no response.)

1 Terry Marrome, to be followed by Marriele
2 Robinson.

3 MR. MARROME: My name is Terry Marrome. I'm
4 a member of the Green Party, Move On, and a few other
5 organizations.

6 I would like to comment first on the
7 economics of fracking. Companies make money by
8 producing a product, and also by selling stock. And
9 while fracking companies are not doing very well at all
10 making a product, they are making a lot of money selling
11 stock and gas and other things, which sort of amount to
12 a subsidy from the public.

13 What happens is that they drill a well and
14 the peak production in the first year, and the casings
15 of the well fail very quickly and they start to pollute
16 the water supply. The well runs dry in a few years and
17 they just move on to a new place and they repollute the
18 water in a new section here.

19 To make the energy transition is going to
20 take real big bucks. Nationwide, I estimated -- rough
21 calculation -- that it would cost \$15 trillion, which
22 sounds like a lot of money. That's in 2010 dollars. It
23 sounds like a lot of money except when you compare it to

1 the bank bailout. The estimates from CNN were 12.8
2 trillion and I've seen estimates as high as \$25
3 trillion.

4 So, it's really a political problem as well
5 as a scientific problem. Do we have the political will?
6 It seems like the political will is missing to spend the
7 money, but the political will was certainly there when
8 it came to bailing out the banks and the billionaires in
9 this country.

10 I am a retired professor of physics. What I
11 have noticed in the scientific literature is that global
12 warming is slowing down. This is a dirty little secret
13 that progressives don't often talk about. I mean I'm
14 not sure that right wingers talk about it, but the
15 latest studies show that it is slowing down and the
16 question is why it is slowing down is the debate in the
17 scientific literature.

18 Some scientists say it's because of
19 oscillations in the Pacific ocean. Others say -- and
20 this is becoming the prevalent view of it, I think -- is
21 that aerosols, increased amount of aerosols in the
22 atmosphere. And they blame it on the Chinese and the
23 Indians for their coal fire plants dumping all kinds of

1 gunk into the atmosphere.

2 But it's established fact. A 2010 report in
3 Science Magazine showed that the amount of solar
4 radiation reaching the ground was diminished. They said
5 -- in that article it said that the rate of global
6 warming has halved since 2000.

7 But what the scientists are all afraid to
8 talk about, except maybe some geoengineers who have been
9 saying for years that geoengineering is possible, is
10 that the amount of aerosols might be increasing because
11 we're dumping them in the atmosphere with what's
12 commonly known as a chem trail.

13 This is the easiest you could possibly want
14 to verify because all you have to do is look up at the
15 sky and try to remember when the skies were clear and we
16 had nice blue sky days. There is less energy getting
17 through the atmosphere. And I think that in the New
18 York State energy budget, whatever, there should be
19 money allocated to measuring the amounts of solar
20 radiation getting through the atmosphere.

21 It just makes me mad as I hell when I go out
22 and every single day I see clouds up in the sky. Long
23 Island tried to convince the Suffolk legislature to pass

1 a resolution against spraying up in the sky. We didn't
2 get anywhere. It was tabled I think forever.

3 But I don't expect very many political
4 leaders to have the guts to say anything about chem
5 trails because you would be labeled a conspiracy
6 theorist and people usually turn their brains off and
7 ignore all kinds of evidence when anybody brings up the
8 subject.

9 Slowdown in global warming is a reality.
10 Slowdown began in 1998 which is the same year they
11 started spraying.

12 Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.

14 Marielle Robinson, followed by Philip Healy.

15 While she's walking about can I just check
16 that Laurie and Robert Heintz or Judy Beck are here?

17 (There was no response.)

18 MS. ROBINSON: My name is Marielle Robinson.
19 I'm a project coordinator for Long Island Progressive
20 Coalition's Power Up Communities Program.

21 Thank you for having this hearing today.
22 After reviewing the 2014 New York Energy Plan, we at the
23 Long Island Progressive Coalition feel that New York is

1 heading in the right direction.

2 Many of the initiatives hit at important
3 issues facing New Yorkers, and with some alterations and
4 expansions, this plan could help progress New York into
5 a more environmentally friendly, economically viable
6 future.

7 Since 1979, LIPC has been a grassroots
8 community based organization that advocates for
9 sustainable development, for revitalization of local
10 communities, the enhancement of human dignity, effective
11 democracy, and economic, social and racial justice.

12 The LIPC has held the fundamental belief
13 that sustainable efficient development, particularly in
14 our low to moderate income working communities, is
15 paramount in reducing the socioeconomic disparities
16 prevalent here on Long Island and throughout New York
17 State.

18 As of 2011, the LIPC is the designated
19 constituency based organization for Nassau and Suffolk
20 counties, operating as an independent contractor to New
21 York State Energy Research and Development Authority
22 under Green Jobs Green New York program.

23 Working in aggregation, a concept outlined

1 in initiative seven of the energy draft, the LIPC's
2 Power Up Program is focused on outreach and assistance
3 in moderate to low income, underserved communities,
4 connecting homeowners with rebates, financing and
5 certified contractors, and receiving home energy
6 improvements.

7 In many of these communities, the residents
8 believe that energy related work is out of their reach.
9 It's either too expensive or too burdensome to take on.
10 This misinformation, combined with the reality that much
11 of our housing is old, inefficient, and prone to health
12 and safety issues, is literally keeping parts of our
13 state in the energy dark ages.

14 The LIPC believes that educating underserved
15 communities about the practicality and sustainability of
16 energy efficiency measures will result in more
17 widespread buy-in to energy efficiency and environmental
18 conscious options for everyone.

19 This community wide education and individual
20 support utilized for aggregation, which is mentioned in
21 the energy draft, will create more sustainable,
22 affordable and overall better quality of life for every
23 resident, especially those living in our lower income

1 communities.

2 Programs currently funded for the next two
3 years, such as the Green Jobs Green New York initiative,
4 need to continue past 2015 and be expanded upon. In
5 addition to this, we believe that the energy plan needs
6 to make significant investments in solar, wind and other
7 renewable energy technologies.

8 Government and school buildings need to be
9 upgraded and retrofitted and needed to be made a
10 priority in our communities.

11 In order to continue energy efficiency
12 opportunities and growth, particularly in our low income
13 and underserved communities, as outlined in initiative
14 one of the energy draft, we urge continued support from
15 New York State in programs such as Green Jobs Green New
16 York and beyond 2015.

17 The energy plan should support and enhance
18 aggregation models moving forward, not only due to its
19 great success in marketing energy efficiency
20 improvements to underserved communities, but also for
21 its potential to create an industry of good paying green
22 collar jobs through community benefits agreements.
23 Providing a sustainable energy system across New York

1 requires hiring and wage requirements for all the energy
2 work that is done.

3 We greatly support and emphasize the
4 importance of initiative 15 of the energy draft,
5 pertaining to workforce development in the green sector.

6 Training new workers from low income
7 communities, with the focus on women and minorities, and
8 retraining current workers in the industry, will help
9 create pathways out of poverty and therefore must be a
10 priority in 2014's energy plan.

11 Finally, the LIPC has a long history of
12 supporting repowering of existing plants. Long Island
13 has many old, inefficient power plants that waste
14 energy, but also provide tax relief to local
15 communities. We need to retrofit some of our old power
16 plants and prevent new ones from being built while
17 prioritizing renewable energy and expanding upon our
18 current efficiency programs.

19 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you.

20 Phillip Healy.

21 (There was no response.)

22 Will Schweiger, to be followed by Jessica
23 Roff.

1 MR. SCHWEIGER: Hello, and thank you very
2 much for allowing me to speak and share my comments with
3 the Draft Energy Plan. My name is Will Schweiger. I
4 represent -- I'm here today speaking on behalf of
5 Efficiency First New York, membership of home
6 performance contractors statewide that comprises over 60
7 companies and over 400 individuals that are
8 participating in making homes more energy efficient.

9 I wanted to speak a little bit to the goals
10 of the energy plan. I know you are seeking to create
11 jobs to really kind of revitalize the energy industry in
12 New York, and the energy scope. And I believe through
13 investment in energy efficiency it's a great way to do
14 it.

15 A number of people here today spoke about
16 ground source heat pumps, about solar, about wind power.
17 I think those are all great, and on behalf of my
18 membership I think that those are things that should be
19 explored, but energy efficiency is something that I
20 think everyone can agree that needs to happen in
21 conjunction with that.

22 Only by reducing our energy usage in the
23 first place do we make a lot of these technologies more

1 feasible, more cost effective, and make them more able
2 to be adopted widely across the state.

3 A couple things about energy efficiency.
4 Our membership mostly works within the Green Jobs Green
5 New York programs, and various facilities programs here
6 in the state, to retrofit existing buildings. They
7 could be existing residential buildings as well as
8 municipal and commercial buildings. And achieve an
9 average of between 20 and 40 percent reduction in
10 whatever they are using, whether they are using a fossil
11 based fuel or renewable energy to heat and provide hot
12 water to the building.

13 And these often come with a rate of return
14 on investment of within 10 years and many projects far
15 less. You know, again, in the plan, you guys mention
16 public/private partnerships. And there is no better
17 example of that than the home performance community here
18 in New York State, as well as Long Island, which has a
19 very strong community.

20 New York State has aligned itself with
21 private companies that are trained to test, recommend,
22 and educate consumers about their energy use in their
23 homes on a personal level, and then are in a position to

1 make improvements on those -- on their existing systems.

2 So, I think this is -- really, I can't say
3 it enough. I think it's a really important path. You
4 guys outlined it numerous times in the report itself,
5 and in the draft. I think I would like to applaud you
6 for that.

7 I had a couple of comments on what was
8 proposed, and I will be submitting written comments
9 following this later on today.

10 One of the things is increasing market
11 penetration and customer awareness. I think that is a
12 key piece of making our energy hopes for the energy
13 future a reality.

14 You know, right now our market penetration
15 is one percent or less for sure. Until we have reached
16 that critical mass where people actually start seeking
17 these services, we are going to have to do a better job
18 at incentivizing and finding new and innovative ways to
19 spur interest in these programs and initiatives that
20 have already been established.

21 The second thing is there's been the EEPs
22 restructuring plan that's been proposed at the Public
23 Service Commission and has been ruled upon. I would

1 just like to voice our association's wholehearted thanks
2 for that, thanks and support of that effort. I think
3 it's going to go a long way towards revitalizing the
4 energy efficiency industry in New York and making all
5 the things that are envisioned in this report a reality.

6 Specifically outlined within that report, I
7 feel it's worth mentioning now, is moving to a system
8 where we promote energy efficiency with a fuel neutral
9 approach. Regardless of the fuel that people are using,
10 whether it's fossil based, whether it's solar producing
11 energy that they are heating their home, or with
12 whatever they are doing, they should be included within
13 the existing energy efficiency program structures.

14 I think having one type of fuel or another
15 should not preclude them from participation because
16 reducing energy usage anywhere, I believe, is in all of
17 our best interests. That also helps us with market
18 penetration if our membership knows that it can market
19 to anyone and help get them involved.

20 I see my time is up, but I would just like
21 to give you my thanks once again for allowing me to
22 participate, and to encourage you to capitalize on the
23 existing robust energy efficiency structure that has

1 already been in place.

2 Thank you very much.

3 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.

4 Jessica Roff, to be followed by Kim Fraczek.

5 MS. ROFF: My name is Jessica Roff, I'm a
6 fourth generation Brooklynite, and I'm involved with a
7 number of environmental organizations fighting against
8 climate change, and I've done Sandy relief work for the
9 past year and a half.

10 I want to thank you for the opportunity to
11 testify, but I also want to say it's really -- this is
12 not a valid system right now for commentary. There are
13 only times during the day for people to come and comment
14 and very few people actually are available to do that.

15 Take my testimony as representing thousands
16 of other people who actually have paid jobs. Sadly, I
17 do not so I have the ability to do it. But you should
18 have evenings, you should have weekends, there should be
19 more than five opportunities to testify here in New York
20 State when we are talking about our energy future, which
21 is the future of our entire existence. Frankly, it's
22 disrespectful of the people of New York State to not
23 offer more opportunities for that.

1 I would like to say also this is another
2 failed opportunity for Governor Cuomo and New York State
3 to be leading on addressing climate change and being a
4 leader in figuring out an appropriate energy plan moving
5 forward.

6 This plan is entirely based on a false
7 premise that natural gas is a clean energy. It is not.
8 It is a fossil fuel. It is dangerous and destructive.
9 These are huge problems on the entire plan.

10 Initiatives 6, 8 and 9 are all pushing for a
11 build out and expansion. That is not going to help us.
12 If we keep building out fossil fuel infrastructure, then
13 we are going to continue to destroy communities
14 throughout New York State.

15 People in Minisink are already getting sick
16 from a compressor up there. People in the Rockaways are
17 barely recovered at all, and some people are not at all
18 recovered, and they are building a Rockaway pipeline,
19 which is, one, going down one of the major exit routes,
20 one of the main transportation hubs, and two, this is
21 going to bring fracked gas, highly toxic with radon,
22 into people's homes. That is another massive problem.

23 I'm glad that the plan is actually starting

1 to talk about carbon dioxide and addressing some of the
2 emissions issues, but there are no real standards and
3 benchmarks for addressing it in the plan.

4 In addition, it's like sticking our heads in
5 the sand by only talking about carbon. We need to be
6 talking about methane already. It took us 40 years to
7 get us to talk about carbon. That's great. Methane is
8 more destructive. It needs to be addressed.

9 When you base an entire energy plan on the
10 use of "natural gas" then you are just exacerbating the
11 problem that leads to a situation where we have the
12 Rockaways.

13 So, three minutes. I'm going to talk really
14 fast.

15 Also the problems regardless of whether we
16 drill in New York. Yes, I want a ban on fracking in New
17 York, but I don't want to destroy our neighbors in
18 Pennsylvania for our energy costs. That's not fair.
19 It's not a productive solution. We need to be moving
20 all of this forward towards actually having a renewable
21 energy plan.

22 And we need a comprehensive plan that
23 involves energy efficiency. You can't address energy

1 choices without addressing energy efficiency, and that
2 is not addressed with real bench marks or real numbers
3 or real money put away in this plan.

4 Transitioning to renewables also has to be
5 done in transportation. Our transportation system is
6 completely dependent on fossil fuels in this system. We
7 need to be transitioning towards electric and other
8 positive ways to power our transportation system.

9 The boiler conversions that are pushed in
10 initiative 9 are also a false premise of this is a good
11 thing. Burning methane is actually more destructive
12 than burning coal and it needs a massive particulate
13 matter as well. The whole purpose of these gas boiler
14 transitions is supposed to make it better for people
15 with respiratory and asthma, and it makes it worse.
16 It's not clean. It's not healthful. It's not moving
17 forward.

18 We need to be promoting wind power, such as
19 the Long Beach offshore wind farm, and not approving a
20 Port Ambrose LNG port. They are for the same location.
21 It can't happen. If we shut the coal and natural gas
22 and nuclear power plants, we will be moving forward. We
23 have to be stopped subsidizing the fossil fuel industry,

1 because if we are subsidizing the fossil fuel industry
2 it's not a fair playing field to be working towards
3 renewables.

4 In fact, if we take the subsidies and put
5 them toward renewables, we will actually move the system
6 forward and that will be much more productive.

7 Also, the Green Bank that's addressed in
8 this plan seems to be there's too many questions open in
9 it if we are investing in fossil fuel because, as I
10 said, it's a false premise that clean energy includes
11 natural gas, which it does not, then we will further be
12 subsidizing investments in something that's only
13 destructive.

14 There's no description of what the
15 public/private partnerships must be in this plan. And
16 I, as a cynical New Yorker, am convinced that would
17 probably be a lot of fossil fuel money, if you ask me,
18 based on the fact that a lot of this language actually
19 looks like it came straight out of publicity information
20 from the natural gas industry. That is a warning sign
21 right there.

22 Further, let's see, that raises issues of
23 initiative 11, talk about transparency and energy

1 choices. We need to actually know where the money comes
2 from. We need to have true energy choices. Most people
3 don't have that. If we give lip service to transparency
4 but there's no actual choices, it doesn't matter. If
5 you are choosing between natural gas, tar sands and
6 nuclear, that is not a choice in energy. That is a
7 public health crisis.

8 And that is where we are. We are at a
9 critical point in New York State and in the world, and
10 if we are going to build forward after rebuilding from
11 Sandy, then we need to be making a transition to
12 renewables, which most of us already know, although it
13 seems the governor is unwilling to make that bold step.

14 And our choices have to have an impact on
15 what we do day to day. It can't be whether we turn on
16 our television or not. It has to be about what energy
17 is doing to the actual climate in which we live.

18 We need to be moving towards renewables, we
19 need to be investing money, we need to be giving our lip
20 service and actually putting our walk in the walk and
21 not just talking the talk, in order to prepare for the
22 future and our energy choices.

23 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Kim Fraczek, followed by

1 Rich Thomas.

2 MS. FRACZEK: First, I would like to address
3 the same point that Jessica Roff had just made about
4 asking for public input on very important energy
5 policies. Six locations on inconvenient weekdays, I'm
6 getting a feeling that New York State isn't quite
7 interested in getting real input from New York State
8 residents.

9 I reviewed the plan initiatives and I want
10 to add a few highlights for you to consider.
11 Initiatives one and 11 mention wanting to keep
12 information clearly labeled and accessible to the people
13 of New York.

14 And I would like to point out that there's a
15 bill right now in the health committee, bill number
16 A6863, which is going to demand that our utility
17 companies monitor and report levels of radon that are
18 coming into our state from the new natural gas coming
19 from fracking in Pennsylvania.

20 Initiative two discusses building models for
21 our energy sources. We must turn off fossil fuel
22 consumption and retrofit and switch to doable renewable
23 and sustainable energy sources.

1 Initiative four encourages business to
2 invest in clean energy, and we'd like a tighter
3 definition to include what clean energy means, because
4 my community does not include natural gas as a form of
5 clean energy as is marketed to be on TV and radio.

6 Initiative six is asking to modernize
7 infrastructure but includes fossil fuels such as gas, as
8 it includes modernization of gas delivery systems.
9 Instead, the words "and gas" should be eliminated from
10 this initiative and all support for further fossil fuel
11 development should be eliminated from this initiative
12 action plan.

13 I applaud initiative seven to support
14 community based energy, however, the details of
15 public/private partnerships that are intended to usher
16 in economic growth need to be clearer. Partnerships
17 with fossil fuel companies or fossil fuel infrastructure
18 companies are not advantageous to the long term economy
19 of New York State for a stable climate.

20 Initiative eight, this is completely out of
21 line for a forward thinking state. If New York State is
22 spending funds on rebuilding fossil fuel infrastructure,
23 and protecting that infrastructure and its citizens from

1 devastating climate change induced floods, why would
2 this plan agree to an advocacy of fossil fuels as future
3 floods become worse?

4 It is truly discouraging to see a well
5 thought out plan to adapt the climate change but
6 similarly experience plans to prevent it from reaching
7 catastrophic, unsalvageable levels.

8 I know my time is running short, but many of
9 my comments about the initiatives have been submitted in
10 writing.

11 What I see is that our government likes to
12 talk about renewable energy but we are not actively
13 putting this to work. I'm appalled that Cuomo is
14 considering the Port Ambrose LNG port in the same exact
15 place as an offshore wind farm to frack the US up and
16 ship it out to the highest international bidder.

17 We are rolling out the red carpet for a
18 natural gas power plant in Middletown that will poison
19 us. My friend in Minisink, New York, right now, in the
20 middle of lush New York State farmland that supplies our
21 farmers' markets with fresh organic food, are suffering
22 with dizziness, nose bleed, poisoned soil, because of
23 the natural gas compressor station, because we continue

1 to invest in fossil fuels instead of taking a chance to
2 be a leader.

3 And I also want to point out that our
4 senators are not paying attention to these people who
5 have been standing outside their offices to deliver a
6 letter. They are being completely ignored.

7 I just returned from a trip to West
8 Virginia. We could not even brush our teeth with the
9 water there, blistering from the current chemical spill
10 mess there. Our hosts provided us with purchased
11 bottled water. Business owners are taking out bank
12 loans to keep their businesses going and have to
13 purchase water now to make ice cubes for their
14 restaurants.

15 Kids can't take baths. Parents can't clean
16 their kids without purchasing paper products. This is
17 because of our continued investment in fossil fuels. Is
18 this our future if we don't take renewable and
19 sustainable energy seriously? New York State is looking
20 into our future. It is West Virginia if we continue to
21 invest in fossil fuels.

22 Our next door neighbors in Pennsylvania are
23 losing their water, home values, farmland, right in line

1 like West Virginia. New York should say no to being a
2 customer to this form of energy, energy, let alone
3 offering its citizens up to sacrifice themselves for a
4 company's profit to get funneled into tax savings
5 through Wall Street, leaving us poisoned and voiceless.

6 We are in a unique position right now to say
7 no to caveman energy and be true leaders standing up to
8 a giant, smothering industry, and creating an example
9 for a healthy, sustainable future.

10 We actually have the choice to be healthy
11 and happy. It breaks my heart that we have to beg the
12 little that is left of our democracy to take care of its
13 citizens. Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.

15 Rich Thomas, to be followed by Andrew
16 Collver.

17 MR. THOMAS: Good afternoon. Thank you for
18 the opportunity to share our views on the proposed New
19 York State Energy Plan. My name is Rich Thomas, and I'm
20 the Director of New York AREA, which is an acronym for
21 Affordable Reliable Electricity Alliance.

22 We were formed shortly after the 2003
23 blackout and promote policies to ensure that New York

1 has ample clean, affordable and reliable electricity.

2 I am here today on behalf of our chairman
3 Arthur "Jerry" Kremer, who hails from Long Beach, having
4 been chair of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee and
5 principal author of New York's Power Siting Laws.

6 The 2014 Draft State Energy Plan begins an
7 important conversation about the economic and
8 environmental future of our state. The plan provides an
9 encouraging start and we offer the following thoughts on
10 affordability and reliability to help improve the draft
11 plan.

12 For starters, the plan should set a goal of
13 keeping more of New York's energy dollars in the state.
14 According to the plan, New York currently imports 15
15 percent of its electricity from Canada and other states.
16 We should be a net seller of power out of state.

17 This will ensure we have abundant energy
18 infrastructure, with good paying, skilled middle-class
19 jobs, while keeping billions of dollars in the state
20 annually to stimulate, and in some places revitalize,
21 the state's economy.

22 We should never be at the mercy of out of
23 state providers of energy who could have an economic

1 stranglehold on our economy.

2 Subzero temperatures and frequent snow
3 storms between January and February 2014 pushed some
4 energy systems to their limit. According to the
5 Montreal Gazette, Hydro-Quebec was nearly unable to meet
6 its demand and required some New York-generated
7 electricity to rescue its ratepayers from rolling
8 blackouts during the deep freeze.

9 At the same time, the New York Independent
10 System Operator, NYISO, reported that New York set a new
11 winter electric demand record of 25,738 megawatts of
12 electricity on January 7, 2014, eclipsing the 2004
13 record of 25,541 megawatts.

14 In June 2012, Con Edison warned that the
15 lack of fuel diversity would cause significant price
16 volatility for ratepayers, especially in natural gas
17 prices.

18 Fast forward to today. Our energy system
19 has grown more reliable on natural gas and system
20 constraints have brought Con Edison's forecast to
21 fruition.

22 The U.S. Energy Information Administration
23 indicated that the northeast experienced record

1 withdrawals from the northeast's natural gas reserves
2 this winter. These increases are especially hard on
3 those with fixed incomes and the poor.

4 Given the supply shortage and steep rise in
5 demand for heating and electric generation needs, Long
6 Island ratepayers paid a \$17 surcharge for natural gas
7 beginning on January 1, 2014, and have been subject to
8 six subsequent rate increases by the Long Island Power
9 Authority, whose system is now managed by PSEG.

10 A Newsday article quoted a ratepayer as
11 saying, "this bill just killed me", said William Jones
12 of Wading River, referring to his bill that jumped to
13 \$435 from \$179 last month.

14 An issue brief by New York AREA Chairman
15 Jerry Kremer provides additional insight as to why Long
16 Island ratepayers are struggling to achieve an
17 affordable energy system.

18 He notes that the premature closure of the
19 Shoreham nuclear plant contributed 5.6 billion in debt
20 to LIPA's balance sheet. This translates into \$2,074
21 for every man, woman and child living on Long Island.
22 For a family of four, a little over \$8,000. And this is
23 just principal alone.

1 The State of New York should carefully
2 consider lessons learned on Long Island and the impact
3 of higher electric rates for the rest of the Empire
4 State, and end its opposition to license renewal for
5 Indian Point, which supplies 11 percent of New York's
6 power.

7 Indian Point has earned the independent US
8 Nuclear Regulatory Commission's highest safety rating in
9 each of the past nine years and has virtually zero
10 carbon missions.

11 Another important solution to New York's
12 energy challenges is the Port Ambrose deepwater port
13 project, which would be located 18 and a half miles off
14 the coast of Long Beach. This project offers an
15 opportunity to increase reliable access to natural gas
16 for winter and summer peak periods.

17 The ICF International estimates the pricing
18 impact to be as much as a four percent reduction in the
19 overall annual price of natural gas. Also, it would
20 offer much needed stabilization because of impacts on
21 cold peak winter days.

22 This represents an annual direct savings of
23 up to \$325 million for New Yorkers. If the naysayers

1 continue to oppose projects on land, then why scrap any
2 effort to build something in the ocean? It's got to be
3 sited somewhere, especially when the pipeline already
4 exists.

5 As previously noted, pipeline constraints
6 have dramatically increased the price of natural gas in
7 the region. Port Ambrose increases access to a reliable
8 flow of natural gas to deliver more supply into the Long
9 Island, New York City, and downstate market, thereby
10 reducing price for customers.

11 Port Ambrose will also be an important
12 economic benefit for the region's economy as it will
13 create over 600 construction ready jobs, provide an
14 investment of over \$90 million in local goods and
15 services. Further, it will not be an export of gas out
16 of the region. It will provide for gas users in this
17 region who desperately need it.

18 We commend the state for embarking on this
19 long range study of our energy needs. This is not the
20 time to slice and dice the plan to accommodate some
21 groups that oppose a particular form of energy. Our
22 state needs more power, not less.

23 I have written comments and I will submit

1 them.

2 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.

3 Andrew Collver, followed by Bob DiBenedetto.

4 MR. COLLVER: My remarks are about the
5 technology of these renewable energies. They have been
6 talked about like they are here, let's go out and buy
7 them. I think it's like when you go buy 1980 computer
8 or something. We need upgrading and innovations.

9 In 1975, I dared to be a pioneer in
10 renewable energy. As director of interdisciplinary
11 program at Environmental Studies at Stony Brook, I
12 thought it was my duty to show a good example.

13 The system I tried was made of aluminum roof
14 panels blackened to maximize heating. The heat was
15 captured by a refrigerator gas, circulated through the
16 panels, and then to a compressor. I was told that the
17 compressor reached 800 degrees. It was powerful enough
18 to keep us in hot water all year round, and then to heat
19 the house night and day through the winter without any
20 help from the oil burner.

21 Well, the demands on the compressor proved
22 to be too much and it burned out. After a second
23 compressor failed, sadly, I had to go back to the nasty

1 habit of burning oil.

2 I don't know whatever became of that system,
3 but it still seemed like a great idea to me. All it
4 needed, as far as I know, was a compressor especially
5 designed to operate at high temperatures.

6 The other day I was looking at some solar
7 panels at an exhibit. They, too, are black. I thought
8 how much heat they must produce in the summer. Probably
9 they would put out more heat than electricity.

10 Why waste that heat? Can it be put to work
11 heating water? Could it be converted into electricity
12 somehow? And could electricity generated in the noonday
13 sun be saved in a small, affordable storage device in
14 the basement for use at night and then cloudy days and
15 the blackouts of the electrical grid?

16 No doubt scientists have theoretical answers
17 and complex equations to show that these things can be
18 done, but I don't see practical applications that are in
19 any store or yellow pages.

20 These are the kinds of questions that I
21 would like to see addressed in the New York Energy Plan.
22 How are we to fund the research and custody, trial and
23 error process of looking for the most efficient and cost

1 effective materials and designs?

2 How are we to support the pioneers who dare
3 to start new businesses producing and installing new
4 systems? This can't be done by a lone tinker in a
5 garage or a barn. It calls for the kind of resources
6 that we have already in the state university system and
7 Brookhaven Lab.

8 The tools and talent are there, but we need
9 to put them to work. That takes money. Not money that
10 a private entrepreneur can afford to invest. Big energy
11 corporations could do it, but they have no incentive to
12 do so as long as their supply of fossil fuels holds out.

13 An answer, I suggest, is to collect a tax on
14 coal, oil and natural gas, and use that money to fund
15 research development and early entrepreneurship in
16 renewable energy.

17 The Empire State and Long Island are known
18 as leaders in many fields, but it won't do to sit back
19 and reminisce about our past glory. The question is
20 always, what have we done lately? Let the answer be:
21 New York leads the transition to renewable energy.

22 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.

23 Up next, Bob DiBenedetto, followed by Tim

1 Reilly.

2 MR. DIBENEDETTO: Thank you. My name is Bob
3 DiBenedetto. I am the president, executive director,
4 and one of the founders of an organization by the name
5 of Healthy Planet. We teach people about how their food
6 and lifestyle choices impact their body and the world in
7 a very profound way.

8 First, I would like to mention that we
9 encourage the part of the initiative number nine that
10 supports research to enable the quantification of public
11 health benefits so that they may be incorporated into
12 energy planning and policies.

13 MIT recently estimated that air pollution
14 causes 200,000 early deaths each year. Energy planning
15 and policies created without properly quantified public
16 health impacts are dangerously inadequate.

17 Every energy policy decision ought to be
18 made with quantifiable public health impacts as part of
19 this equation. Those suggesting that fossil fuels and
20 things such as liquid natural gas are going to save us
21 money are not in touch with the fact that burning fossil
22 fuels have monetary, health, social impacts on all
23 people living on this planet.

1 With that in mind, second, while the plan
2 commits to reduced greenhouse gas emissions in New York
3 by 80 percent by 2050, there are almost no specific
4 interim goals or benchmarks for the state to meet before
5 2050. That is a problem.

6 A few years ago, the Long Island Clean
7 Electricity Vision Report was released. It outlined a
8 blueprint and cost estimates for getting Long Island 100
9 percent off of fossil fuels for residential electricity
10 generation by 2020, and a plan to get 100 percent away
11 from fossil fuels for use for electricity generation for
12 all purposes by 2030.

13 It's that kind of vision, together with
14 clear mandates for enforceable benchmarks along that
15 path that we need in New York State. We can't treat it
16 as just an idea. It needs to be a vision with a plan.

17 I will also echo the sentiments of many
18 other speakers that the state should recommit itself to
19 meeting the energy efficiency and renewable energy goals
20 it set for 2015, and set even more aggressive efficiency
21 and renewable energy goals for coming years.

22 We support the extension of the state's
23 renewable energy target to committing to deriving 50

1 percent of New York's electric energy from renewable
2 energy sources by 2025.

3 When we look at other forms of energy and we
4 say that they are cheap, such as natural gas, and we
5 ignore their health impacts, and yet we take something
6 such as energy efficiency, that puts people to work and
7 is completely about reducing energy use with the same
8 impact as adding more fossil fuel energy use, but
9 without any of the downside, we think people who are
10 promoting fossil fuels are only looking at half the
11 equation.

12 And we also would suggest that New York
13 State commit very soon to decommissioning its nuclear
14 power plants and abandon any plans to increase energy
15 generating capacity from nuclear sources.

16 There is no solution for the problem of
17 disposal of highly radioactive waste produced by nuclear
18 power plants, and ongoing toxic releases from these
19 plants, both planned and accidentally, they pose
20 catastrophic risks to humans and the environment.

21 And Long Island is still paying the price
22 for bizarrely myopic decisions made around nuclear at
23 Shoreham several decades ago. Bizarrely myopic. And

1 speaking about bizarrely myopic, we have a very bizarre
2 situation in our country right now.

3 We have all the scientists in the world, all
4 the credible scientists who are clearly stating that
5 climate change is a problem, and yet we have politicians
6 on a national level stating such things as, well,
7 climate change doesn't exist. We used to think it was
8 global cooling. Now it's called global warming. The
9 earth hasn't cooled -- hasn't warmed in the last 15
10 years. Therefore, there is no climate change.

11 I say bizarre because it's not true. There
12 is a clear scientific consensus, and it's good to see
13 that New York State has acknowledged this clear
14 scientific consensus.

15 What we would like to see, however, going
16 forward, again, to reiterate, is a plan to take what we
17 know and put it into action, as if it was a life and
18 death situation, because it really is.

19 And the fact that it's a life and death
20 situation could explain why there's such emotion coming
21 from the audience when someone tells them that something
22 that has the potential to sicken and kill their children
23 is good for Long Island.

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.

3 Tim Reilly.

4 (There was no response.)

5 Corey Tyler.

6 (There was no response.)

7 Tom Ryan, to be followed by Charlotte Koons.

8 MR. RYAN: Chairman Rhodes, esteemed board,
9 good afternoon. My name is Tom Ryan. I currently work
10 on Long Island and have been a 20 year plus resident of
11 Nassau County. I'm also the president of Boilermakers
12 Local 5. Our geographical jurisdiction covers almost
13 the entire State of New York.

14 Today I speak on behalf of my membership,
15 the hundreds of boilermakers, blacksmiths, and metal
16 work mechanics of New York State. We believe it is
17 critical to take a realistic and balanced approach to
18 safeguarding our energy future.

19 We urge New York State to support the clean
20 and efficient production of energy by hydropower,
21 natural gas, nuclear, oil and coal responsibly. We find
22 aspects in this plan to be troublesome to the
23 hardworking taxpayers of the state.

1 Volume one, page 49, issue 15, a retraining
2 on short courses? Volume two, page 122, however, there
3 continues to be critical shortage of skilled workers?
4 We have highly trained, highly skilled workers.

5 Boilermaker apprentices have to meet 6,000
6 hours of hands on build instruction, plus 600 hours of
7 classroom instruction, and a plethora of safety
8 training, before they are even considered for graduation
9 to journeyman status. What we need is repowering, not
10 retraining.

11 Further on, volume two, page 122, New York's
12 total electricity requirement to meet the need of all
13 sectors combined is expected to grow at an average
14 annual rate of 0.7 percent every year from 2012 to 2030.
15 Further on, it talks about the seismic risk to Indian
16 Point on page 164. On page 163, the aging
17 infrastructure. It states that 59 percent of electric
18 generation was constructed before 1980, with an average
19 age of steam generation in New York State of over 40
20 years.

21 And I have to ask: Then why is the
22 governor, via-a-vis the Public Service Commission, not
23 granting final power purchase agreements for plants

1 already sited and welcomed by the local populus, such as
2 Cricket Valley Energy and CPB Energy in Waywayanda?

3 What about underutilized space, already
4 sited and zoned for power generation, such as Barrett
5 Station and Island Park. To dismantle this in New York
6 State, will their power production also be impaired?

7 As for the New York Green Bank, \$1 billion
8 of taxpayer dollars out the window, financing
9 unrealistic energy, unhelpful for New York's base load
10 power. Going to foreign countries? Powering across
11 borders?

12 Please, stop taking blue collar tax dollars
13 to stop green collar job creation. Please let New
14 Yorkers power New York.

15 On volume one, page 56, there's a quote that
16 one of the goals in the energy plan is to increase New
17 York energy dollars to be retained in the state.

18 We, the people of New York State, implore
19 you to please do this efficiently and responsibly and
20 stop the Champlain Power Hudson Express. Please keep
21 generation of power localized in New York State. Let
22 New Yorkers power New York.

23 There's one key takeaway here -- and I

1 respectfully understand that Governor Cuomo does not
2 have the time nor the energy to read all through the
3 public records -- but if there's one key takeaway I
4 would love the governor to know, that Canadians and out
5 of state workers cannot vote to reelect him as governor
6 of New York State.

7 We respectfully ask the Public Service
8 Commission and this board to let New York State be
9 powered and energized within New York State by New
10 Yorkers.

11 Thank you very much.

12 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.

13 Charlotte Koons, followed by Gladys Paulson.

14 MS. KOONS: Good afternoon. I have been a
15 resident of Eatons Neck Northport for 56 years, and I
16 live in a two acre zone where I have a herd of seven
17 deer and lots of foxes, etc., and try to be as energy
18 efficient as I can.

19 But I am here to speak out, courtesy of Food
20 and Water Watch, that really online let me hear about
21 this. And I would like to end this with a poem.

22 At almost 80, I must keep hope alive. As a
23 child of immigrants I have thrived here on Long Island's

1 shore. Cozy home, dear friends, my health, who could
2 ask for more? Yet in all good conscience I must speak
3 out about Governor Cuomo's NYSERDA plan, which has some
4 fine rhetoric and lofty goals, yet which has us stick to
5 fossil fuels and does not really address the LNG export
6 facility planned for Long Beach's pristine sands.

7 We here on Paunmonok's fish-shaped isle
8 cannot keep still while recalling Sandy's devastation
9 and this brutal winter's realization that climate change
10 has gripped this nation, and that the NYSERDA plan
11 offers no real solutions to dirty energies, escalating
12 pollutions.

13 Governor Cuomo, hear our pleas. There needs
14 to be some real-time strategies and funding for Long
15 Island's needs. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.

17 Gladys Paulson, to be followed by Elizabeth
18 Broad.

19 MS. PAULSON: Good afternoon. I'm following
20 poetry with prose, I'm sorry for that. I love that
21 poem.

22 My name is Gladys Paulson, and I thank you
23 for being willing to hear the opinions of the people of

1 New York State. I am here to urge you to make renewable
2 energy the prime focus of the New York State Energy
3 Plan, and to not allow New York State to become a
4 facilitator for the use of fossil fuels that damage
5 health and the environment.

6 On a personal note, we in my first family
7 are lifelong residents of the highly polluted New York
8 metropolitan area, which means that we lived during the
9 time of leaded gasoline and the heavy air pollution of
10 the 1960s, specifically in Queens, Brooklyn, Long
11 Island, Suffolk County and Westchester.

12 I am a survivor of breast cancer. My sister
13 is a survivor of thyroid cancer. And my father is a
14 survivor of basal cell and squamous cell carcinoma. My
15 mother, who died in 2011, was diagnosed with bladder
16 cancer, breast cancer. My other sibling, my younger
17 sister, moved away from the New York metropolitan area
18 in her 20s. She has never had cancer.

19 As your energy plan states, damage to health
20 and the resulting economic impacts will be lessened if
21 we switch to alternative fuel sources. Unfortunately,
22 natural gas is seen as a cleaner than coal fuel, which
23 it is not, if all the steps taken to extract the natural

1 gas and release of methane into the air are taken into
2 account.

3 We are all aware of the hundreds of diesel
4 truck trips that are needed to build in fracked wells,
5 the migration of fracking fluid and methane below
6 ground, the need to transport and store used water, the
7 poisoning of wells, animals, people and land, and the
8 tearing down of trees to make roads for heavy equipment.

9 We all know that clean natural gas is really
10 a very dirty business. In the movie Triple Divide,
11 which was shown at the Rosendale theater last week, I
12 learned that the pressure that lead the fracking fluid
13 into the ground not only cracks the shale it's intended
14 to shatter, but creates a pressure bubble, which is
15 surrounding the targeted shale.

16 This pressure bubble may cause unintended
17 vertical and horizontal cracks that would allow methane
18 to travel in unforeseen directions for unknown
19 distances.

20 Fracking causes a lot of unforeseen,
21 unknown, uncontrollable reactions which make it
22 inherently unsafe and certainly not clean. What makes
23 fracking even dirtier than the problems mentioned above

1 is the fact that the gas companies are rarely held
2 accountable for the damage they cause to people, land,
3 water and air.

4 If recent events in Pennsylvania and West
5 Virginia are any indication, the government agencies
6 created to protect their citizens are often to protect
7 the deep pocketed corporations that cause the damage.

8 The dirty business is not in the interests
9 of New York and certainly is not appropriate for a state
10 that should be a leader with all the resources and
11 intelligence and universities that we have here, a
12 leader in the movement towards renewable energies.

13 New York State has a wonderful opportunity
14 to go forward with wind power off Jones Beach and
15 Montauk Place. The jobs created may allow manufacturing
16 to return to New York, especially with the tax free
17 zones that are being established, but our state's
18 leaders must be focused on getting away from fossil
19 fuels, and the energy plan should reflect this.

20 A strong belief that it can be done and
21 willingness to support renewable energy needs to be
22 evidenced. Unfortunately, the building of a natural gas
23 line, compressor station, and the debate over the Port

1 Ambrose LNG site, belies the state's dedication to
2 renewable energy.

3 New York needs to stop waffling and make a
4 firm commitment to move away from fossil fuels, and stop
5 relying on natural gas to make it a so-called green
6 state. The leadership needs to be there.

7 In the 1970s, when there was no oil, we
8 drove smaller cars at a lower speed because it was
9 needed and because it was mandated. Our president wore
10 a sweater so he could turn down the thermostat. Solar
11 panels were installed on the White House roof.

12 When the oil crisis was over, our nation
13 went back to bigger, bigger cars, higher speed limits, a
14 massive number of wells to blast the shale, and we are
15 reaping what we have sown in our worsening health, birth
16 defects, air pollution, water pollution, light
17 pollution.

18 We have to look at the total cost of the use
19 of fossil fuels, not just the price for gallon of BTU.
20 And when we do you will see there is no such thing as
21 cheap energy when it comes to fossil fuels.

22 I'm grateful for the opportunity to share
23 with you my thoughts about the energy future of New

1 York. In conclusion, in addition to banning fracking
2 outright, I would ask that the New York Energy Plan
3 include instituting a carbon tax, and include a study
4 for a recommendation that school buses that run on
5 petroleum diesel be phased out because those fumes are
6 very, very bad for little children.

7 Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.

9 Elizabeth Broad, followed by Beth Fiteni.

10 MS. BROAD: Hello. I am here representing
11 Catskill Mountainkeeper. Thank you for giving me the
12 opportunity to speak. As it's already been said, it
13 would be great if there were more hearings and during
14 the weeknight and weekend hours.

15 A couple of weeks ago, Secretary of State
16 John Kerry declared that climate change can now be
17 considered another weapon of mass destruction, perhaps
18 the world's most fearsome weapon of mass destruction.
19 He compared climate change deniers to people who
20 believed the earth was flat. We need to see clearly, as
21 the Secretary of State urges, and also to take action.

22 Every reputable scientist in the world has
23 been sounding the alarm for some time that unless we

1 drastically cut our greenhouse gas emissions, the
2 apocalyptic weather we have been experiencing is only
3 the tip of the iceberg, which is ironic, since Arctic
4 ice itself is melting at a record rate.

5 Given the dire, unprecedented global crisis
6 we face if we do nothing, the State of New York must act
7 boldly, showing real leadership by formulating and
8 presenting an ambitious plan of action that would slash
9 greenhouse gas emissions and transition from a fossil
10 fuel based economy to one run on renewable energy.

11 Unfortunately, the Draft New York State
12 Energy Plan only perpetuates the use of climate change
13 accelerating fossil fuels, and would meet energy needs
14 by producing or importing massive amounts of fracked
15 gas.

16 While future goals should include limiting
17 all greenhouse gas emissions, this plan would only
18 commit to reductions of carbon dioxide until after 2030,
19 ignoring methane, which the Intergovernmental Panel on
20 Climate Change says will contribute to global warming 86
21 times more than carbon dioxide over the next 20 years.

22 Increased usage of fracked gas would also
23 require construction of a massive shale gas

1 infrastructure, including compressor stations and
2 pipelines, that pose major health and safety risks.

3 In the town of Minisink in Orange County, a
4 compressor station was recently built in the middle of a
5 residential community, causing a major disruptive
6 impact, and there are serious concerns that local
7 residents are becoming ill from air emission.

8 Adding insult to injury, many Minisink
9 residents are first responders from 9/11 who left the
10 city for a clean environment for their children. Now
11 these first responders are suffering from increased
12 involuntary exposure to toxic chemicals in their own
13 backyards.

14 The enormous health risks associated with
15 air pollution caused by compressor stations are also not
16 taken into account with this draft plan.

17 Rather than building a fracked gas bridge
18 down the dead end road of fossil fuels, we should
19 support the work that is already happening in New York
20 State to expand renewable energy development. Power
21 generation from wind and solar more than doubled in our
22 state between 1990 and 2012, surpassing any other energy
23 source.

1 This plan unfortunately makes no significant
2 commitments to increase the proportion of our energy
3 produced by renewable sources in the long term, despite
4 substantive academic research showing that the
5 technology and capacity to create 100 percent of New
6 York's energy from renewables is possible by 2050. All
7 that we are lacking is the political will.

8 Just over the border from Pennsylvania,
9 where fracking has caused significant water and air
10 pollution, lies Broome County, the oil industry's first
11 fracking target in New York.

12 But even now, southern tier pioneers are
13 developing an exciting campaign to expand solar to more
14 households, schools, businesses and municipalities to
15 show that we can create real energy independence that
16 doesn't contaminate the water, pollute the air, or risk
17 major explosions.

18 The number and diversity of people in Broome
19 County who are committed to this project demonstrates
20 that renewable energy can be a viable alternative to
21 shale gas. Binghamton gets 20 percent more sun than
22 anywhere in Germany, one of the countries that is
23 leading the world in the use of solar energy.

1 We have a chance to turn things around in
2 our state and the country at large, but we need the
3 drafters of this plan to be as ambitious as my
4 colleagues in the southern tier.

5 It's truly laudable that Governor Cuomo has
6 announced major initiatives, such as expanding and
7 extending the New York Sun program, and launching
8 K-Solar, so that New York State schools can serve as
9 demonstration hubs to increase solar in their
10 communities.

11 Another very exciting new initiative is the
12 creation of the Green Bank to accelerate the flow of
13 private capital to energy efficiency and renewable
14 energy projects in New York.

15 However, if clean energy includes the use of
16 fracked gas, it will negate the potential success of the
17 Green Bank, and ultimately, the legacy of Governor Cuomo
18 and our state to lead the world.

19 We have a tremendous opportunity to act as
20 leaders, so let's not squander it with weak goals and
21 continued reliance on dangerous fossil fuels like gas.

22 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.

23 Beth Fiteni. She is the last request.

1 Afterwards, I will go through the six folks who have
2 been no shows to see if they are here.

3 MS. FITENI: Thank you very much. I'll be
4 very brief. I know most of the people in the room have
5 been working on energy issues for many years on Long
6 Island, and I just wanted to enter into the discussion a
7 couple of studies that have been done on Long Island, so
8 they are Long Island centric but they may help inform
9 the state plan.

10 One I think was mentioned already. It was
11 done by Renewable Energy Long Island, an organization
12 that was here earlier. Actually, they hired Synapse
13 Energy Economics to do a study saying that we could
14 power all of Long Island with renewables by the year
15 2030. It's a very interesting study. They achieved
16 those conclusions.

17 So, it's something to look at. I'm happy to
18 put this in writing later on with my comments.

19 Also there was a carbon footprint study that
20 was done by the Roche Foundation several years ago, and
21 I believe the goal is to look at the carbon footprint of
22 Long Island regionally every five years, and I believe
23 now it's NYIT that has taken up that study. And also of

1 course the sustainability, the regional sustainability
2 plan.

3 Someone also mentioned many of the
4 organizations on Long Island helped put that together,
5 including the one I work for during the day, but I'm not
6 representing them right now.

7 One other thing I just wanted to mention is
8 that, while I have been working on energy issues for
9 many years, one of the sort of gaps that I see is with
10 solar thermal. As far as I know, I remember LIPA did
11 not really have an incentive for solar thermal, just
12 solar hot water, except for people that had electric
13 heating. NYSERDA's program is the same way. So, it's
14 just sort of a gap that leaves out a lot of people from
15 having an incentive for solar thermal, which is a great
16 way to use solar energy.

17 Just in general a final comment is that
18 there is a lot of confusion about incentive programs on
19 Long Island. In my job, I happen to represent one of
20 these agencies, I don't want to say which, but I ended
21 up really giving advice to my customers on all of them
22 because we have incentives from NYSERDA, also now from
23 PSEG, National Grid on natural gas, and also from NYPA,

1 who works with municipalities.

2 So, it is really confusing to sort of
3 navigate all the different incentives. So, I recently
4 read the EEPS restructuring plan, the energy efficiency
5 portfolio standard plan. I'm really encouraged to see
6 that there's an effort towards streamlining all of that,
7 and getting all these entities to work together, because
8 it's so confusing. So, if that could be part of the
9 state plan, too, that would be great.

10 Again, I'll put my comments in writing.
11 Thank you very much. Thanks for hearing my comments.

12 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you very much.

13 We have no new requests. May I just quickly
14 check the room for Laurie Heinitz, Robert Heintz.

15 MS. TOBY: My name should be on the list.

16 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Please come up.

17 MS. TOBY: My name is Jill Toby. I'm here
18 on behalf of Food and Water Watch and also as a resident
19 of Long Island. I have to pull from somebody's comments
20 it's got to be sited somewhere here. Thank you very
21 much for coming to hear what we have to say about that.

22 I don't know why it has to be sited
23 somewhere and what it is, but here are a couple of

1 comments I would like to make. Thank you.

2 This is an ongoing discussion about an
3 addiction and a presumed helpless continuation of energy
4 appetite and mindless greed. Methods of conservation,
5 green architecture, city planning, and health promoting
6 lifestyles, proliferation of predatory, lucrative and
7 radiological sickness and disease treatment are
8 constantly preempted by commercialization and reliance
9 on destructive utilities.

10 The hospital, by the way, as I am sure you
11 know, is the number one employer here on Long Island.
12 These utilities operate to prop up profits to ensnare
13 all the earth systems in costs and concurrent pension
14 investments held hostage, which I think explains a good
15 deal, maybe explains a good deal of the reason why it
16 isn't such a simple task for these to move from here to
17 there.

18 If one looks at the mutual fund log of
19 participants, the big earners are always the same ones.
20 It doesn't matter which mutual fund you look at. So,
21 when these companies are changed or their contribution
22 is minimized, that's going to obviously affect pension
23 fund investments.

1 I think there are a lot of people who don't
2 make that connection between the dots, and I think it's
3 a huge one and we need to be discussing it in a very,
4 very transparent way. So, that's a suggestion.

5 I urge your serious consideration of today's
6 speakers, those who are incensed by complacency and the
7 inertia of devastating policies. And the book Chernobyl
8 and the film Gasland 2 by Josh Fox elucidates the
9 relationship between energy and human health and safety
10 and welfare.

11 Some of these thankfully have been mentioned
12 today. Please note my objection to the following
13 points: Hazardous fracking waste emissions, air
14 pollution emissions, fouling environmental habitats with
15 radioactive storage facility leaks.

16 Two, preservation of tree canopy. I must
17 say that I'm an architect and my undergraduate work in
18 the field was in landscape architecture. So,
19 preservation of tree canopy by reducing, rather than
20 increasing, building, health and life competition and
21 residential technologies.

22 I think that's a really huge issue that is
23 starting to go to the courts. And we need to, as a

1 general public, we need to think about it and have
2 plenty of time to think about what it means and what we
3 can do about it and where our values lie.

4 The use of excessive road salt and the
5 publicized contemplation of substituting brine for this,
6 which was on Main Street Radio. I heard it twice
7 already. How will we be protected from the disposal of
8 fracking waste and other unregulated products and their
9 subsequent contamination of the water table?

10 Four, allowing vehicles that have gas
11 efficiency rates less than 32 to 70 miles per gallon is
12 due to destruction and inertia. My own passenger
13 vehicle operated at 32 miles per gallon back in 1979.

14 I studied solar energy construction and
15 passive heating as early as 1974 from government
16 informational brochures. The kind that were sent out
17 for free or used to.

18 I won't age myself. I was very young when I
19 studied these things. And after receiving my
20 professional education in landscape architecture and
21 preservation, and current construction, it has become
22 readily apparent.

23 Last point is, five, the downward spiral

1 exemplified by proliferating HVAC systems, windowless
2 rooms and electrically dependent building
3 configurations, rather than employing age old proven
4 high quality, in conjunction with improved
5 understanding. I'm talking about building technique and
6 building siting.

7 The present design parameters incorporated
8 in our building code are predicated on our disproven
9 fantasies and industry propaganda of clean affordable
10 energy production. Self determination might include
11 incentives and commendations and recognition for
12 independent, off grid solutions publicized as news.
13 These exemplary achievements might occupy television
14 time to the same extent the down power lines and gas
15 shortages do. The need for obfuscation and
16 misrepresentation might thereby be greatly reduced.

17 And I thank you for your patience and for,
18 again, allowing everyone to meet here and hear each
19 other. I think it's been good for myself. I can say
20 that. I hope it's been good for everybody else.

21 Thank you very much.

22 CHAIRMAN RHODES: Thank you for your
23 patience.

1 May I just check now for the six folks:
2 Laurie Heinitz, Robert Heintz, Judy Beck, Phillip Healy,
3 Tim Reilly, Corey Tyler.

4 (There was no response.)

5 Then if there are no further speakers,
6 thanks from all of us to Farmingdale State College, and
7 thanks from us on the State Energy Planning Board to all
8 the commentators. You made excellent points, you made
9 them passionately, and you have given us much to think
10 about.

11 We have undertaken the development of the
12 Draft SEP with a great deal of seriousness. We will
13 continue to do that as we move to the Final State Energy
14 Plan, and it's extremely important that we hear and
15 understand comments and questions like yours.

16 Final commercial. Please remember that
17 written comments can be submitted to our website until
18 April 30th, www.energyplan.ny.gov. The session is
19 adjourned. Thank you very much.

20 (Meeting concluded at 4:58 p.m.)
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22
23

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

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.

3/14/14
Date

Jeanne O'Connell
Jeanne O'Connell

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