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NEW YORK STATE ENERGY PLAN HEARING

SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

MARCH 6, 2014

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H E L D A T: SUNY College of Environmental
 Science and Forestry
 1 Forestry Drive
 Syracuse, New York
 March 6, 2014

A P P E A R A N C E S:

JOHN RHODES, Chair, Energy Planning Board/NYSERDA

JAMES BAY, NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets

JARED SNYDER, NYS Department of Enviromental
Conservation

MICHAEL SNYDER, NYS Department of State

Lisa M. Miranda,
Court Reporter.

1 MR. RHODES: Good morning and welcome.
2 My name is John Rhodes and I am the president
3 and CEO of the New York State Energy Research
4 and Development Authority and here today in my
5 role as chair of the state energy planning
6 board.

7 I would like to introduce to you the other
8 representatives of the planning board that are
9 here today. James Bays, First Deputy
10 Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture
11 and Markets. And Michael Snyder, Policy
12 Analyst, Department of State. We expect to be
13 joined by Jared Snyder, Assistant Commissioner,
14 Department of Environmental Conservation.

15 This is a hearing to accept public
16 comments on the 2014 draft State Energy Plan
17 that was approved by the State Energy Planning
18 Board on January 7, 2014 and made available on
19 the Energy Plan website energyplan.ny.gov.

20 The plan was issued in accordance with
21 Article 6 of the energy law. Public notice of
22 the issuance of the plan and notice of the this
23 public hearing were published in the state
24 register on January 29.

25 The draft state Energy Plan is the result

1 of many months of serious and thoughtful work
2 and envisions an energy system for New York
3 State that is clean, flexible, affordable
4 resilient and reliable.

5 It states the initiatives to achieve that
6 vision that focus on five areas; improving
7 energy affordability, unleashing the power of
8 private sector finances, providing a more
9 resilient and flexible power grid, give
10 customers more control over their energy use
11 and aligning energy innovation market demand.

12 According to the plan it outlines some
13 long-term policy goals, near-term action items
14 that lead toward those and meaningful metrics
15 along the way.

16 The draft plan consists of two volumes.
17 The first volume provides 15 key initiatives to
18 advance the state's energy future. The second
19 volume addresses energy uses, its sources and
20 impacts and provides detailed background that
21 we use to develop the overarching vision and
22 initiatives in the first volume.

23 This is the last of six public hearing
24 sessions that were planned to receive public
25 comments. And let me just pause here to do

1 some housekeeping, if I may. The exits are
2 assigned as we're to, the bathrooms are out
3 this door (indicating) to the left and down the
4 past the serving counter. Rules for this
5 session: The only hard rule is no signs on
6 sticks or poles. Otherwise, if you have signs,
7 please feel free to express your views with
8 those. We would ask as a courtesy that you not
9 obstruct the views of others behind you. And,
10 in general, if you have sentiments toward a
11 speaker, I ask that you keep those within
12 bounds. Please express yourselves. I will
13 notice that in prior hearings there has been a
14 supportive clapping, et cetera, in the middle
15 of speaker comments. This actually distracted
16 that speaker. It's up to you to do that, but
17 it might be courteous to allow the speaker to
18 get done and then express your support, but
19 it's up to you. So those are the ground rules.

20 We're guests of ESF, of course, and it
21 would be nice if we stayed within bounds of the
22 corium. That's actually been how these have
23 all gone. They have been orderly and
24 passionate, and that's exactly as it should be.
25 Written comments, besides oral comments that

1 already are given today on the draft plan, will
2 be accepted through April 30th. And
3 information on the submitting those written
4 comments can be found on the Energy Plan
5 website. If you decide to submit written
6 comments, please do so as soon as possible so
7 they can be carefully considered. All
8 comments, whether -- all public comments,
9 whether oral or written, will be considered by
10 the Energy Planning Board as it works toward
11 issuance of the final Energy Plan. All
12 comments county equally regardless of how they
13 were received written or at sessions like this.

14 The planning board's targeted issuance of
15 the final plan is in the spring of 2014.

16 The process today is simple. Those who
17 wish to comment at this hearing have been asked
18 to sign in upon arrival, your name will be
19 called one at a time to speak. When your name
20 is called, please come to the podium to provide
21 your statement. I will make a practice of when

22 I announce a name to announce the name of the
23 following speaker or the on-deck person. A
24 court reporter is here to provide a transcript
25 to the planning board of everything that is

1 said today. It is very important that there be
2 only one speaker at a time so that the court
3 reporter can hear. The speaker should address
4 their comments in the direction of the
5 microphone. And please make an effort to speak
6 clearly and slowly. It is also very important
7 that those in attendance be courteous to the
8 speaker so that his or her comments can be
9 transcribed accurately by the court reporter.
10 If you provide a statement, and have a written
11 version with you, it would be helpful if you
12 could provide that to us either today or
13 following the hearing so that we can provide
14 those to the court reporter to assist in
15 providing the transcript.

16 All speakers are asked to focus on issues
17 that pertain to the draft and energy plan
18 orally. Your comments should be as succinct as
19 possible so we can hear from as many of you as
20 possible. We've set a five minute deadline for
21 this purpose. But of course after everyone has
22 had a chance to address the board, repeat
23 speakers may be afforded another five minutes
24 should hearing time permit. Formal
25 presentation and Power Points are not being

1 allowed today.

2 Again, our goal is to hear from as many of
3 you as possible. As this is a statement
4 hearing, the planning board is not entertaining
5 questions. This is an opportunity for us to
6 receive feedback and hear from you on the draft
7 plan. Those who want to comment, but do not
8 want to speak in public, again, you can submit
9 written comments via our website. And, again,
10 that's the energyplan.ny.gov.

11 With that, I will note that we've been
12 joined by Jared Snyder, Assistant Commissioner
13 of the Department of Environmental Conservation.

14 I want to thank you all for coming today
15 and just ask if there are any questions about
16 the process for this session that I can answer
17 at this time? Seeing none, I will call our
18 first speaker Lawrence Paul to be followed by
19 Sarah Eckel.

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you for very much
21 for having me speak today, I appreciate it. I
22 wish to highlight a major flaw in the draft
23 2014 New York State Energy Plan. This document
24 fails to seriously address the paramount issue
25 of climate change and the global warming

1 crisis. Instead of providing a path for
2 achieving greenhouse reduction goals, the plan
3 actually promotes an expansion of the natural
4 gas production and consumption as well as
5 construction of additional natural gas
6 pipelines and other gas infrastructure that
7 will encourage fracking in other states and
8 possibly here in New York State. This will
9 also increase the level of carbon dioxide and
10 methane emissions for decades to come. This is
11 the complete opposite direction that we need to
12 go. This plan will cause a significant
13 increase in the release of methane gas into our
14 atmosphere by the extraction of natural gas
15 from shale, leakages from pipelines, transport
16 vehicles and storage area spills. Not to
17 mention the contamination of our water, air and
18 land from the fracking process. Let us also
19 not forget the danger of liquified natural gas.
20 40 years ago 40 people died in Long Island from
21 an accident in liquified natural gas. Also, we
22 must remember the recent explosion on our rail
23 systems and also the terrible tragedy in
24 Quebec. Methane gas is by far the most potent
25 greenhouse gas of any other fossil fuels. It

1 is many times the warming effect of carbon
2 dioxide. We have well surpassed the safety
3 limit zone of 350 parts per million of carbon
4 concentration in the atmosphere. In the spring
5 of 2012 the carbon dioxide levels reached 400
6 parts per million near the Artic region and
7 today we are at that point now. Also, every
8 year this increases two to three parts per
9 million each year. We're getting closer to the
10 tipping point to the point of no return in
11 which we'll be facing irreversible climate
12 change. For than a decade we have experienced
13 the direct effect of global warming through
14 extreme weather patterns, rising oceans,
15 melting Artic sea ice, flooding, tornadoes,
16 hurricanes, droughts and fire. And it is
17 getting worse. The New York State Energy Plan
18 needs to be a document that provides an
19 aggressive, bold and innovative plan with a
20 sense of urgency. Urgency that leads us to a
21 significant reduction of emissions in our
22 atmosphere and by banning fracking as well as
23 reducing and phasing out fossil fuel energy for
24 a non-fossil renewable energy resources. Thank
25 you.

1 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much. Sarah
2 Eckel to be followed by Linda DeStefano.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you for the
4 opportunity to speak today. My name is Sarah
5 Eckel, the legislature and policy director for
6 the Citizens Campaign for the Environment which
7 has 80,000 members and is not-for-profit. CCE
8 will offer comprehensive written comments.
9 Today I would like to highlight the natural gas
10 outlined in the plan. The Energy Plan said
11 that that's a vision for reducing New York's
12 contribution toward climate change, however
13 throughout the plan the goal is -- are to move
14 from oil to gas. From oil to gas. The plan
15 lays out the expectation that the dependence on
16 the gas will significantly increase. Gas is
17 not sustainable in the area for New York and
18 increases its use toward the work that the
19 state has done to provide public health and
20 energy. Indeed the plan acknowledges the
21 public health impact of oil and coal, but
22 largely ignores those impacts when it comes to
23 gas. A 2012 study on a set of chemicals,
24 non-methane hydrocarbons compounds found in the
25 air that directly said it produces more than 50

1 NMHC found in natural gas wells in rural
2 Colorado including 30 that effect the brain and
3 nervous system. Some detected levels high
4 enough to potentially harm children who are
5 exposed to them before birth. The author said
6 this source of chemical is likely a mix of raw
7 gas that's vented from wells and emissions from
8 industrial equipment used during the gas
9 production process. This adds to the concern
10 of how air pollution from gas is effecting
11 public health during all stages of production
12 and delivery. The study author reflected 30
13 NMHC that effect the endocrine system. Several
14 belong to a class called PHA -- I can never say
15 that word without looking it up -- detected
16 what other scientists are found high enough to
17 impact child development. Woman exposed to
18 certain PHA are more likely to have children
19 with lower birth weight and lower IQ scores.

20 In 2013 the Rand corporation provided a study
21 doing air emissions into gas drilling
22 operations in Pennsylvania. They stated weight
23 extraction industry provided the VOC and more
24 emissions equivalent to our larger land. The
25 same air quality provides today 7.2 million to

1 3.2 million and further stated that 80 percent
2 of the damages occurring in the year after the
3 well is developed and more than half the
4 emission damages come from compressor stations.
5 These are just two examples of how the gas and
6 impact -- how gas impacts public health through
7 its direct air emissions. The evidence keeps
8 amounting against the gas industry claim that
9 it's a clean fuel. Gas is a dirty fuel just
10 like coal or oil. Pound for pound it has the
11 comparative impact of methane on the climate
12 and is over 20 times greater than carbon
13 dioxide over a hundred year period. Globally
14 over 60 percent of total methane emissions come
15 from human activity. In regard to the
16 industry, natural gas and petroleum are more
17 greater sorts of methane emissions in the US.
18 Methane is primarily a component of natural
19 gas. Methane is omitted during the process of
20 storage, transmission and distribution of
21 natural gas. A recent study for the university
22 reports that methane, like from the drilling
23 and production of natural gas, makes the claim
24 it changes the benefit of natural gas
25 specifically in regard to the transportation

1 sector. The study also concludes there's about
2 50 percent more methane in the atmosphere than
3 previously estimated. Additional studies show
4 that methane leaks have occurred throughout gas
5 supply from drilling to compressor stations to
6 transportation. And increase reliance upon
7 natural gas doesn't reduce our greenhouse gas
8 emissions. Scientists warn against another
9 reliance of natural gas in our electricity
10 system. The electric power sector is the
11 largest contributor to US global warming
12 emissions and currently account for
13 approximately one third of the nation's total
14 emissions. To limit some of the worst
15 conveyance of climate change, the US tried to
16 cut power sector emissions by 90 percent from
17 current levels by 2050. If New York continues
18 on its current path toward a natural gas
19 dominated electricity system, the electricity
20 sector would generate up to three times the
21 national research council's recommended amount
22 of the carbon emissions. Renewable energy
23 sources such as wind and solar generate little
24 to no global warming emissions. And, together
25 with improved efficiency, play an essential

1 role in developing a low carbon electricity
2 system. To meet the national research power
3 security, the UC needs to invest heavily in
4 energy efficiency and increase renewable
5 energy. Gas is to the climate like building a
6 bridge to warming worlds. As previously
7 discussed, it does not aid in the goal of
8 reducing public health impact from fossil fuel.
9 So going from coal to gas or oil to gas is like
10 switching your cigarette brands. This is not
11 the answer New Yorkers need or deserve. And
12 New Yorkers have the opportunity to move away
13 from dirty fossil fuel. And it needs to
14 completely move away from fossil fuels toward
15 the sustainable energy future. CCE urges New
16 York State to adopt an energy plan that lays
17 out a clear path toward a sustainable future
18 that is reliant upon renewable energy and does
19 not provide incentives or encourage any
20 transition that New York depends on natural gas
21 or other fossil fuels. And thank you for the
22 opportunity to comment today.

23 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much.

24 Linda DeStefano to be followed by James
25 Borra.

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I have three points and
2 they're all fairly brief. The first one is the
3 plan is much too reliant on natural gas. Given
4 the methane emissions from natural gas and
5 given that methane is a greenhouse gas even
6 more potent than Co2, this plan will not slow
7 climate change. Your previous two speakers
8 talked in great detail, so I won't go onto my
9 second point which has to do with nuclear
10 energy. The plan assumes that nuclear energy
11 should continue to be part of the energy mix.
12 Instead the plan should be looking at how to
13 phase out the nuclear facilities as soon as
14 possible and should be put forward decommission
15 plans. This would minimize the danger to
16 workers and the public as the decommissioning
17 is taking place. The plan does acknowledge
18 that Indian Point may be shut down, but it
19 doesn't deal with the reality of upstate
20 nuclear reactors. I live about 36 miles from
21 three nuclear reactors, and it's a great
22 concern for me. If there were to be a
23 catastrophe there, I don't think there's any
24 efficient way that people are going to be
25 evacuated. At least 20 of the upstate

1 reactors -- Fitzpatrick owned by Entergy and
2 Ginna owned by Constellation -- are very old
3 and in financial trouble. This was pointed out
4 by a financial analyst organization. In the
5 case of Fitzpatrick, it seems that Entergy is
6 trying to get the last cent out of the plant
7 while not spending on proper maintenance. For
8 example, the Fitzpatrick plant needs a new
9 condensor, but Entergy shows no sign of
10 installing one. The Energy Plan should include
11 a statement about a over-crowded storage of
12 nuclear waste at the reactors. Let's require
13 that nuclear waste -- some of it is going to be
14 around for hundreds of thousands of years, we
15 have no way of knowing how to keep that away
16 from the environment for that period of time.
17 So we're leaving a horrible legacy to
18 generations to come. The plan should also
19 acknowledge the storage of the nuclear waste at
20 dumps at West Valley near Buffalo and the fact
21 that that has been leaking from a container.
22 The company that started that nuclear dump went
23 bankrupt, left it up to us taxpayers to deal
24 with it. The state government, the federal
25 government for years had been trying to do some

1 clean up. It is still full of nuclear waste.
2 And the Energy Plan, which does not recognize
3 the serious safety public health and
4 environmental contamination problem of one of
5 the energy sources, i.e. nuclear, is woefully
6 incomplete. Any my third and final point is
7 that the plan should include a suggestion to
8 fund energy conservation studies and education
9 about energy conservation. Energy efficiency
10 is important, but it's distinct from energy
11 conservation. For example, someone might buy
12 an energy efficient refrigerator and then
13 decide they can also buy a freezer because
14 their refrigerator is saving energy, yet the
15 overall result may be more use of energy.
16 Clever ad campaigns and programs in schools can
17 encourage energy conservation. And studies can
18 help to determine the best strategy for
19 motivating people. For example, I heard of a
20 study which found people are motivated to save
21 energy when they perceive that their neighbors
22 are doing so, even more than when they think
23 they're going to be saving money, which is an
24 interesting result of that study. More studies
25 can be done more. Education could be done.

1 Know that Onondaga County has been very good at
2 going into a school and educating about
3 recycling with the children. Sometimes the
4 children would come home and educate their
5 parents. That same kind of thing can be done
6 on energy issues. Thank you.

7 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much.

8 James Borra to be followed by Keith Schue.

9

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I want to start out by
11 saying any of my remarks are nothing personal,
12 in case any of you people are involved in the
13 panel otherwise. All these good patient people
14 behind me have brought a lot of data, facts and
15 things that I believe our leaders are already
16 aware of. And I think it's sad that they have
17 to come to these kinds of meetings and bring
18 these facts forward as though they're a secret.
19 They're not a secret. There's a root problem.
20 The root problem is business as usual where a
21 board or a governmental agency will craft
22 something that's absolutely not for the public,
23 never was and never was intended to be. That's
24 our group problem. It's the old way of doing
25 business. That's why we're here today. We

1 have an energy problem because we continue to
2 do business the old way. The old way is how we
3 got where we are right now. And we can't
4 continue to do that. It doesn't work. So
5 instead of bringing data and facts, I just try
6 to bring the truth. And truth is we have to
7 change. Our leaders have to change. They have
8 to be responsible and represent the people for
9 a change. Thank you.

10 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much.

11 Keith Schue to be followed by Alicia
12 Alexander.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good morning. My name
14 is Keith Schue. I live in Cherry Valley, New
15 York. I'm here today representing myself as
16 well as the organization Sustainable Otsego. I
17 have a master's degree in engineering and I've
18 worked in the private sector as an electrical
19 engineer for 14 years. I also have been
20 involved in environmental conservation and
21 government relations. I've served on various
22 federal, state and local advisor boards. I've
23 been directly involved in the review and
24 writing of plans, policies and regulations. As
25 your document admits, we are facing a climate

1 crisis. Global warming is now upon us. Artic
2 ice is melting faster than scientists had even
3 predicted. And we are experiencing extreme and
4 deadly weather patterns like Hurricane Sandy.
5 Addressing this crisis requires an energy plan
6 with teeth. Respectfully, we don't have that
7 here.

8 Volume one contains facts and words from
9 people like Albert Einstein, Thomas Edison,
10 Nikola Tesla and Rachel Carson. It also
11 contains some bold-sounding initiatives, but
12 they're really only conceptual.

13 Volume two contains data, lots of data,
14 some of which is probably accurate and some of
15 which I do believe is questionable. But in
16 reading this as a whole I found myself asking
17 where is volume three? Where is a volume three
18 that takes some of the visionary concepts of
19 volume one, compares it with information of
20 volume two and creates an actual plan for what
21 you're going to do and how you're going to do
22 it? Nowhere in this document is anything said
23 about the actual percentage of energy that will
24 come from difference sources. What is an
25 intended target for renewables and what time

1 frame? You do not have a plan unless you make
2 some decisions about those things and unless
3 you include some analysis of what facilities
4 will be needed, what facilities will be phased
5 out and what other grid improvements you're
6 going to start to do to achieve that. We're
7 concerned that this plan relies much too
8 heavily on passive forecasts made in the
9 absence of planning. Significant advances have
10 been made in wind and solar technology,
11 however, the forecast in this plan predict
12 almost no growth to renewables. By putting
13 dubious forecasts before planning, you're
14 essentially creating a self-fulfilling
15 prophecy. A vision of the future very
16 different from the beautiful photographs of
17 wind turbines and solar farms that are in the
18 document.

19 For this plan to have meaning, we believe
20 it must set an aggressive numerical target for
21 renewable energy with 50 percent of all powered
22 generation from renewables by the year 2025.

23 Going further, the document should have an
24 action plan for continued investments in
25 renewables so that New York State can become

1 fossil fuel free by the mid-century.

2 2050 is also when the promise is made in
3 executive order Number 24 by Governor Paterson
4 comes due for reducing total greenhouse gas
5 emissions across all sectors by 80 percent.

6 Although the Energy Plan mentions that goal, it
7 fails to lay out ny strategy for how it's going
8 to be accomplished. Instead it invents a
9 substitute interim target for 2030 for reducing
10 one greenhouse gas, which is carbon dioxide.

11 Well, this completely ignores methane, the main
12 ingredient of natural gas which, according to
13 the intergovernmental panel on climate change,
14 is 33 times worse than CO2 as the driver of
15 climate change over a hundred years and 86
16 times worse over 20 years.

17 By the way, the next 20 years are actually
18 the critical time when scientists tell us that
19 decisive action must occur to avoid the worst
20 impact of climate change. We don't have a
21 hundred years to solve this problem. Instead
22 of cherry-picking targets, which favor the
23 natural gas industry, a credible schedule
24 should be developed with a series of numeric
25 benchmarks at regular intervals for the

1 reduction of a total greenhouse gas emission,
2 including benchmarks within the time frame of
3 this administration. I think we all know it's
4 easy to make promises while on somebody else's
5 watch.

6 We're also very concerned that this plan
7 places caps on the potential benefits of
8 renewable and efficiency programs. If NYSERDA
9 is saying the best we can hope for is that
10 37 percent of New York's energy needs to be met
11 with renewables, the most energy we will be
12 able to save from energy efficiency
13 improvements is only 20 percent, than, frankly,
14 you're basically conceding that your 80 percent
15 total greenhouse gas reduction goal is
16 impossible. The numbers don't add up. We are
17 deeply concerned that instead of focusing on
18 renewables, that plan sets a course for even
19 greater dependency on fossil fuels, especially
20 natural gas. Three of the plan's initiatives
21 Numbers 6, 8, 9 explicitly promote conversion
22 to gas and acceleration of gas infrastructure
23 for transmission and distribution. And many of
24 your initiatives ambiguously refer to clean
25 energy. That is without saying what you're

1 actually talking about. Let's make this very
2 clear: Natural gas is not clean. When you
3 perform a life-cycle analysis of impacts,
4 meaning how you get gas out of the ground,
5 fracking, air and water contamination, disposal
6 of frack waste water and methane leaks that
7 occur in processing, transmission, storage and
8 distribution. We know that natural gas, when
9 you put all that together, fracked gas, it's
10 not clean. If Governor's Cuomo green bank is
11 going to be used to promote the consumption of
12 fracked gas and the building of gas
13 infrastructure, then it's not a green bank.

14 Finally, what this plans says about the
15 possibility of fracking here in New York is
16 truly puzzling. The section titled New York
17 Production Forecast begins with a statement
18 saying that natural gas production levels are
19 expected to continue dropping. However, this
20 is immediately followed with words and a chart
21 that forecasts them actually to rise. In fact,
22 tripling with the lifting of today's
23 moratorium. So literally the document
24 contradicts itself all on the same page.
25 Hopefully Govenour Cuomo will make the right

1 decision and not permit fracking in New York.
2 But even if that happens, even if he makes the
3 decision by embracing a plan that welcomes
4 fracked gas from outside, then we are still
5 polluting the environment, contributing to
6 climate change and making the problem worse.

7 I'm just about done.

8 I hope you agree with me New York can do
9 better. We must do better. We urge you to put
10 forward a plan with more teeth and less gas. A
11 plan with specific measurable targets and
12 specific meaningful action that will build a
13 sustainable future based not on fossil fuel,
14 that will one day be gone, but instead on
15 renewables. That is the only path that will
16 truly lead us to energy independence as a state
17 and as a nation. Thank you very much.

18 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much.

19 Alicia Alexander followed by Nancy Norton.

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you all who have
21 presented before me for your beautiful
22 well-thought out comments. And thank you the
23 board and panel for listening to our concerns.
24 My name is Alicia Alexander and I'm with the
25 Grassroots Accommodations Coalition for energy

1 Sustainability. We are the welcome committee
2 for the world here in New York. We have great
3 food, we have great water, yes. We would like
4 to keep it that way. As an accommodations
5 owner who sees people from pretty much every
6 country around the world, they love to see
7 Upstate New York, they love to see our great
8 city. And we would like to -- we would like to
9 continually provide that. We don't want wells,
10 we don't want polluted water. Less than
11 one percent of all the water on this planet,
12 less than one percent of all the water on this
13 planet, is drinkable. While much of this globe
14 is experiencing drought, and worse vying for
15 water, which New York is so rich in great
16 lakes, Finger Lakes, Catskills and Adirondacks.
17 We have a very precious irreplaceable
18 commodity. To exchange our precious water for
19 polluted, fracked and poisoned water does not
20 just border on insane, it is the very
21 definition. This is an irreplaceable commodity
22 needed by every living organism on the planet.
23 Not just us. And it is in excusable to play
24 with that. We have already, due to the great
25 minds and the great energy that have gone into

1 this Stanford report, we have already at least
2 a decent plan. Don't tell me it isn't
3 possible. Iceland, Germany, Spain, Portugal,
4 Denmark. We in America used to be leaders.
5 New York State was the first to hold the world
6 fair. We are not leaders anymore and we need
7 to be. We need to be leaders. And Govenour
8 Cuomo needs to step up to the plate, as we all
9 do, and become leaders in a world that is so
10 damage by greed rather than by sense. Dollars
11 rather than by sense. And I ask you all, you
12 all, to think about all the words you're
13 hearing here today and make a decision that
14 works and that's blessed by God.

15 MR. RHODES: Thank you.

16 Nancy Norton to be followed by Melissa
17 Chipman.

18 Can I just one second ask for all of us to
19 check our cellphones that they're off?

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm also a vacation
21 rental owner and I hear from people all over
22 the world about what a fantastic place we live
23 in. And I really appreciate that we've been
24 given this. Thank you for your work on this
25 and for your attention to these issues.

1 NYSERDA had helped my family finance solar
2 panels for our house, do heat audits, home
3 audits, energy audits, business energy audits.
4 The federal government has helped us to -- with
5 tax rebates to get two electric cars. So with
6 our solar panels we don't buy gasoline anymore,
7 unless we come up to -- up to Syracuse or
8 travel. And I would like to see more charging
9 stations along the way. We would love to have
10 been able to park and charge my car while I
11 parked here. I'm also representing many, many
12 friends and family who were unable to come
13 today. I hope that Mr. Bays will continue to
14 advocate for Upstate New York agriculture and
15 tourism economy. Fracking would devastate it.
16 The people who care about the organic foods
17 that they're able to buy in New York City
18 because our producers bring them down there
19 would not be interested if we were suddenly
20 like Pennsylvania and had to worry about our
21 cows and our calves dying because they're being
22 exposed to fracking. I'm concerned that my
23 business would suffer very much. I'm not sure
24 how much you guys address building codes. My
25 husband and I like to travel. We go around the

1 world. We see houses all over the place with
2 solar hot water heaters on the roofs. I've
3 never seen them here. Our building codes
4 should be reflecting the needs for our
5 grandchildren to have a healthy place to live.
6 I have a five-year-old -- she's
7 seven-years-old, granddaughter and a
8 two-year-old grandson, I have a 20-year-old
9 daughter, I would love to see my daughter have
10 children, but I can't. To me, it feels like
11 being Jewish in Germany in 1933 that I wouldn't
12 want my kids to have kids. I don't know what
13 life will be like for them in a hundred years
14 for their children. I've heard from a New
15 Yorker they're looking at potential things
16 going on as they are having sterilization in
17 150 years. I can't imagine what that means for
18 life going forward. I recently read a book by
19 Derek Bunhofter and have a quote from him,
20 which I won't be able to give you exactly.
21 Walk the right direction on a train that is
22 speeding the wrong direction doesn't really do
23 any good. We have changed to heat pumps at
24 home, we have 28,000 watts of solar power, we
25 have electric cars, I don't use my gas dryer, I

1 hang my clothes, I use an electric dryer. We
2 do everything we can. I don't buy plastics, I
3 make my own soap. I mean my life is just the
4 way of trying to make this world better in
5 reducing my impact. Sometimes it's a little
6 over-the-top, but... I don't want to be
7 walking the wrong direction on a train that is
8 speeding toward extinction. So I hope, even
9 though I may not have addressed your point
10 directly, that you hear not just my voice but
11 the voices of the many people who I've talked
12 to about this who have shared these concerns
13 and that you will work on making the best
14 program. You cannot listen to the fossil fuels
15 and money special interests, but listen to the
16 actual citizens of this area who care about our
17 world going to be a better place. Thank you.

18 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much.

19 Melissa Chipman followed by Judy Pierpont.

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Greetings everyone. My
21 name is Melissa Chipman and I live in Hector,
22 New York on Seneca Lake, and it's very near the
23 opposed gas storage facility for the whole
24 Northeast. And I'm a part of Gas Free Seneca.
25 I'm very opposed to storing gas in my

1 neighborhood. I also want to talk about
2 dollars and sense. Not c-e-n-t-s, but
3 s-e-n-s-e. Could you consider doing an audit
4 and figure out how much it would cost to go
5 fully renewable with solar panels and
6 geothermal and wind energy and drop this
7 other -- drop using money to continue down on
8 the train on the wrong track going down the
9 wrong direction going toward our extinction?
10 Do an audit of how much it would cost to go
11 fully renewable versus how much it's going to
12 cost to stay with natural gas. How much is it
13 going to cost for all explosions and all
14 disasters that are going to come down the line?
15 We know this could happen. Every day I have a
16 friend who tracks it on the Internet. She
17 checks, she checks Canada, she checks the UK,
18 she checks all over the United States. Every
19 day there's an explosion of natural gas. So I
20 would just ask that you would please consider
21 doing an audit and consider comparing the cost.
22 We just need to stop doing the insanity that
23 we're doing and figure out it's going to cost
24 about the same. Thank you.

25 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much.

1 Judy Pierpont followed by Sara Hess.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm Judy Pierpont from
3 Dryden, New York and I want to thank you for
4 entertaining our comments today and for all the
5 inspiring comments that I've heard so far
6 today. The Draft Energy Plan has no growth to
7 alleviate substantial reduction of greenhouse
8 gasses. It's not necessary in the global
9 effort to avoid a shift in our climate, which
10 are the last thing I -- I mean we have storms,
11 floods, droughts, fires, unstable and
12 particularly an air current pattern, we're
13 right now enduring the polar vortex, right,
14 which is some unusual shift in air patterning
15 and rising sea levels. On Page 296, volume one
16 of the draft plan, it says that it's the
17 intention of New York, quote, to "reduce the
18 intensity of its carbon emissions from the
19 energy sector by 50 percent by 2030 measured in
20 carbon dioxide emissions per state from the
21 2010 baseline. Putting New York on the pathway
22 to achieve an 80 percent reduction in total
23 emissions by 2050." Sadly, this claim doesn't
24 provide an accurate accounting of greenhouse
25 gas emissions that play a significant part in

1 climate change. The reduction -- the reduction
2 in total emissions refer only to carbon dioxide
3 avoiding the fact that greenhouse gas emissions
4 do not consist solely of carbon dioxide. The
5 claims seem to actually ignore the effect of
6 unburned methane emissions on the climate. I
7 really do not understand how in a supposedly
8 science based document knowledge of the effect
9 of methane can have a been is cyst that moat I
10 can down made. It's known that it's -- that it
11 is a more potent greenhouse gas than carbon
12 dioxide. As many have said 86 times over 20
13 years. That's important. 20 years. It
14 appears that in the interest of promoting
15 accelerated natural gas use, the plan makers
16 simply chose to leave it to the old belief to
17 those within the natural gas industry that
18 since natural gas burning, with less carbon
19 dioxide emissions, it therefore contribute less
20 than greenhouse gasses to the atmosphere. It
21 is so hard to move people who want to believe
22 something off of their position no matter how
23 much good science is produced. So it's
24 alarming to me that while touting, quote,
25 "Aggressive environmental goals," unquote, the

1 plan advocates increased investment in a
2 methane driven economy. Methane is a potent
3 greenhouse gas intolerable at every stage.
4 Every stage, drilling, transporting,
5 compressing and consumption of natural gas
6 contributes to greenhouse gas air pollution.
7 Let's look a bit at some recent studies. If
8 the plan had not integrated the more recent
9 science into it, it must do so in order not to
10 set the state on a path to greenhouse gas
11 generation at 2.7 percent or more leakage.
12 Natural gas loses any advantage over coal in
13 terms of its greenhouse gas effect, while the
14 potential gas leakage from production at
15 1.35 percent. It tends to rely on industry
16 provided numbers. A separate study by 15
17 scientists from institutions including Harvard
18 and the Natural Atmospheric Administration and
19 Lawrence Burnley National Lab looked at
20 comprehensive atmospheric audits that included
21 the leakage at least three percent over the
22 levels at which natural gas would provide any
23 climate benefits from its lower carbon dioxide
24 level when burned. The title of this study is
25 the emission of methane in the United States.

1 It is based on comprehensive atmospheric
2 methane observations. Rather than an industry
3 provided numbers EPA uses, the findings in
4 this comprehensive study are backed up by other
5 more local studies which found four percent
6 leakage rates in natural gas production around
7 tender, a 6 to 12 percent leakage rate
8 from a production in Colorado. The science of
9 climate change and greenhouse gas emissions is
10 moving fast. It behooves an energy planner of
11 New York to adjust predictions and projection
12 to New York. In this case it doesn't make
13 sense. Natural gas use, when it's used, will
14 lead to greater greenhouse gas emissions and
15 move New York further away from meeting its
16 greenhouse gas emission goals.

17 Thank you very much.

18 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much. Sara
19 Hess to be followed by Joe Wilson.

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Sara Hess.
21 I'm from Tompkins County. And I've been
22 studying energy policies and climate change for
23 the past five years. I will only address one
24 point here and other points in writing. I'm
25 pleased that the draft Energy Plan adopted the

1 long-term goals set by Govenour Paterson of
2 reducing greenhouse gasses by 80 percent from
3 the 1990 levels in the year -- by the year
4 2050. That may be the best single element in
5 the plan. But this draft is far from a real
6 climate action plan. The authors must now
7 finish their job by filling in links between
8 the 15 initiatives and short-term concrete
9 action, funding and other resources, to pull
10 out timelines and a process of benchmarking to
11 get the results along the way. I was a planner
12 in my professional life and I know what a plan
13 should be. This draft has not yet met the
14 definition of a plan in my point of view. And
15 that's a -- it's the greatest weakness. I have
16 also written a lot of grant proposal. If I had
17 written this one, believe me, it would not be
18 funded. Without writing and committing to the
19 concrete steps to make the 80 by '50 goal, I
20 believe year by year this plan leaks
21 credibility. By contrast, the solution project
22 by Mark Jacobson brought a dozen of scientists
23 together to study and then outline one way that
24 a transition of wind, water and solar could be
25 achieved by 2050. Obviously there are many,

1 many ways. This is very hypothetical when
2 talking about the long-range. But I can't help
3 but wonder the -- what this -- where this plan
4 or at least elements of it were not
5 incorporated or used by the authors. Maybe it
6 was, but it's not obvious. A better New York
7 plan would also address how reliance on natural
8 gas, oil and nuclear will be reduced year by
9 year. Instead, this plan seems to focus on the
10 business as usual projection that ramp up
11 fossil fuels and continue nuclear. The long
12 impression is that this really is a business as
13 usual plan. I don't think that was your
14 intention, but that's the way we are reading
15 it. Every day I feel the urgency of climate
16 change motivating me to become a more informed
17 and a more active responsible citizen of our
18 state and of our globe. I urge you, as
19 representatives of our state government, to set
20 more aggressive efficiency and renewable energy
21 goals immediately to be met this year and in
22 2015 and then 2016 and to create the real plan
23 to meet those goals every year that this goal
24 of 80 by '50 from now until 2050. So please
25 finish the work that you began and write a true

1 plan that we can believe in. Thank you.

2 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much.

3 Joe Wilson to be followed by Janna Watkin.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good morning and thank
5 you for taking your time to listen to us
6 discuss the Draft Energy Plan. My name is Joe
7 Wilson and I live in the Town of Dryden. Some
8 of you have heard about the town of Dryden. We
9 are currently being sued by bankrupt
10 multi-national corporation to overturn our
11 citizen generated ban on hydro fracking. It's
12 not fun to be the victim of a bankrupt
13 multi-national energy driven company, but here
14 we are. I also hold three graduate degrees,
15 although I'm now retired. I'm a recovering
16 lawyer, I'm a recovering public administrator,
17 I'm a recovering elected official and I'm a
18 recovering businessman. Amongst the positions
19 I held was a director of planning and
20 coordinator for the State of Delaware, I served
21 for Govenour Mike Castle and his cabinet.
22 Behind closed doors in that cabinet room we
23 would have looked at this plan and said it's a
24 great puff piece, but it ain't no plan. There
25 are many, many new independent plans, most of

1 which you have heard about, all right. I'm
2 simply going to highlight some again because
3 they're important for you to hear again and
4 again with the presumption that then you will
5 go back or your staff will go back and rewrite
6 the plan to make it an appropriate one. Number
7 one, the plan calls for a greatly increased use
8 of natural gas, also known as methane, and a
9 massive increase in methane infrastructure.
10 Those proposals -- and I will not go into
11 detail -- will not enable the state to meet the
12 goals that it holds for the mitigation or
13 reduction of greenhouse gasses. Number two,
14 the methane life-cycle produces major chemicals
15 including diesel fumes, smog, produce fuels,
16 cancer causing carcinogens and birth defect
17 producing endocrine disruptors. However,
18 there's nothing in this plan that I could find
19 either by way of regulations or intensity that
20 would cause the corporations that are going to
21 be reducing those gasses to reduce their
22 emissions. Number three, because the authors
23 of the plan do not mention or take into account
24 the negative health effects of the methane
25 life-cycle, implementing this plan will worsen,

1 not improve the health of the -- us residents
2 of this state. Number four, methane, as we've
3 heard over and again -- and I will say this
4 again because it's important to know -- when
5 it's in the air, it's 86 times greater than the
6 heat trapping global warming gas than carbon
7 dioxide. Yet the authors of this plan did not
8 mention these facts, ignored these facts and do
9 not take them into account in any way that
10 might either lessen or mitigate global warming
11 or improve our health. Number five, such jobs
12 as are generated by methane extraction and
13 infrastructure are shortlived. In general, the
14 production and use of fossil fuels, including
15 methane, requires lots of money but very few
16 people, therefore relying on this diminishes
17 and increases polluting. An unhealthy approach
18 to the generation of energy through fossil
19 fuels will not improve our economy. In fact,
20 we know that the process of extraction,
21 transportation, distribution and burning of
22 methane in particular will push out the many
23 traditional businesses and industries they
24 currently rely on. Especially in upstate which
25 is targeted for fossil fuel extraction. In

1 short, implementing this plan will dramatically
2 increase our reliance on methane and methane
3 infrastructure and methane production. And
4 methane infrastructure will do far more harm
5 than it will ever do good for those citizens of
6 New York. Thank you.

7 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much. Janna
8 Watkins. On deck is Linda Griggs.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. My name is Janna
10 Watkins and I'm the executive director of New
11 York Interfaith Power and Light. And I'm here
12 to offer a perspective from the faith community
13 on the energy plan. My organization,
14 Interfaith Power and Light, is a faith based
15 non-profit organization that organizes a
16 religious response to climate change. I
17 appreciate your time. We're an interfaith
18 organization of members from Judaism, Buddhists
19 and there's a whole list on other faith
20 tenants, all the major faiths. New York
21 Interfaith Power and Light is a national group.
22 We have over 40 states in our organization and
23 130 members state-wide. In order to address
24 the urgency of climate change, the energy plan
25 must go further take our state away from fossil

1 fuels and grid power toward renewable energy.
2 The plans must call for mandatory energy fossil
3 fuels that will meet the state's goal of
4 reducing carbon dioxide 80 percent after 2050
5 and at least 50 percent of New York's
6 electricity come from renewable sources by
7 2025. We cannot allow fracking for our overall
8 health And like from fracking emits greenhouse
9 gases which is worse on our lives. You have
10 your time and an opportunity to rise to the
11 occasion and do something about the issues that
12 effect all life on the planet and we can become
13 heroes or we can chose to hide our heads in the
14 sand and then we'll have to face the question
15 from our children why didn't we address the
16 problem when there was still time. Thank you.

17 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much. Linda
18 Griggs followed by Ellen Harrison. Is Linda
19 Griggs here? We'll come back to her.

20 Ellen Harrison to be followed by Marion
21 Karl.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good morning. Thank you
23 all for being here and listening to us. And I
24 look forward to seeing a revision on the plan
25 that hopefully will encourage a lot of these

1 comments. This plan needs to be revised so
2 that as others have said through goals that
3 become specific plans with measurable outcomes.

4 We need a plan that charts a course away from
5 fossil fuels and toward energy efficiency and
6 renewables toward a distributed production
7 network. All of the ways that fossil fuels are
8 obtained are an environmental disaster through
9 air, water, they disturb the habitat. They
10 offer destruction of a community. And many of
11 us that were sort of vaguely aware of this
12 became much more concerned and much more aware
13 as we've seen the impact of hydraulic
14 fracturing in neighboring Pennsylvania and
15 aware of impacts elsewhere. I want to applaud
16 New York State, our governor and the previous
17 governor, and at this time the DEC and the
18 State Health Department for being cautious when
19 it comes to fracking and not buying into the
20 command. What we are seeing is a tremendous
21 increase in the knowledge of what kind of
22 impact that type of fossil fuels develop is
23 having on health, on the environment and on the
24 climate. It's part of an effort that an
25 organization called physician scientists and

1 engineers for healthy energy put together a
2 biography of just peer reviewed articles.
3 There are lot of reports and lots of other
4 kinds of information, but as scientists, and my
5 background is in science, we understand that
6 the power renew process it's not perfect but
7 it's the best we've got for a way of insuring
8 that that is published as it at least has been
9 subject to some kind of scrutiny. It's not
10 just hype. Two biographies, which I would urge
11 you to take a look at, they're -- it's focus is
12 primarily health and enviromental issues in
13 this case related to energy extraction and use.
14 In the last biograph it currently has 240 such
15 peer reviewed articles. It's very specific.
16 And what we found was more than half of the
17 articles have been published in the last year,
18 so there were no health studies a bunch of
19 years ago. Now they're coming rapidly. And so
20 I am really admiring the fact that New York
21 State has health out there and we're going to
22 be the beneficiary of such information. I am
23 hoping that it will go from a moratorium to a
24 ban on fracking in New York State. We learned
25 how dangerous this practice is. So while we're

1 not fracking in New York, we are experiencing
2 and will be experiencing more of the impacts of
3 natural gas development. What we're seeing are
4 a lot of pipelines being built. As somebody
5 said earlier, those all have leaks.

6 Compression stations are part of the whole
7 process. Those compression stations are
8 significant sources of air emissions. In
9 addition, of course they're going to lead to
10 exports which is going to lead to price
11 increase. But that's another issue. We also
12 are seeing waste coming in from Pennsylvania.
13 And I only will be surprised if we begin to see
14 waste from elsewhere. So this gas, we must not
15 allow this plan to provide gas. There are too
16 many negative impacts. If you want to see that
17 biography I mentioned, it's the
18 PSEhealthyenvironment.org and then there's a
19 place to click down below. So I also think
20 that the plan needs to promote distributed
21 generation. Having become aware of the impact
22 of energy development else where, we installed
23 a geothermal at our house, I rode here in an
24 electric car and we're planning solar to be
25 installed this spring. But one of the things

1 we just learned was that the rebate incentive
2 from NYSERDA has been cut significantly. Now I
3 think we're wealthy enough, we'll go ahead and
4 do it anyway. But I'm confused. That's going
5 in the wrong direction. This plan needs to be
6 very specific about how New York will increase
7 the use of renewable through things like
8 education and rebates and ways that we can
9 overcome anymore by which happens in the
10 renewable field. But we need to go ahead.
11 Thank you.

12 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much. Marion
13 Karl followed by Claire Howard.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Marion Karl
15 and I live in -- I want to thank you for being
16 here today and also to NYSERDA who helped me
17 with an energy audit in my house, an
18 implementation of a heat pump which has helped
19 me cut back significantly on my use of fuel oil
20 this very cold winter. I also live in the town
21 of Middlefield, which is another one of those
22 towns that was challenged by the gas company
23 for their industrial development. We stood for
24 two challenges but face another challenge
25 coming up in the Court of Appeals later this

1 year. Many people have spoken about things
2 about this plan that they don't find
3 satisfactory and reiterating that's it not a
4 good thing because it means that it's all very
5 important. But I want to mention just a couple
6 of other things as well. The transportation
7 goals are vague and misleading and not
8 supported by science. The draft plan promotes
9 vehicle diversity and places at New York clean
10 fleet initiative, not limited to electric
11 vehicles. However, this program provides
12 public money to help purchase vehicles that run
13 on compressed or liquid natural gas. New
14 science has shown that natural gas is actually
15 worse for the climate than the traditional
16 fuels like diesel due to methane in the supply
17 chain. Further, the draft plan offers no
18 detail about how Ne York will implement a
19 memorandum of understanding as seen with seven
20 other states to put 3.3 million emission
21 vehicles on the road by 2025. Rather than
22 encourage vehicles that run on climate killing
23 fossil fuels, New York should establish
24 specific targets to advance to electrical
25 vehicles and hydrogen fuels. And my second

1 point is that the plan ignores security and
2 terrorism concerns. Although the draft plan
3 discusses a sector for nuclear power, it
4 essentially ignores the vulnerability of
5 natural gas infrastructure such as processing
6 and storage facilities, pipelines, compressor
7 stations and distribution systems to attack. A
8 2008 congressional record titled liquified
9 natural gas infrastructure security found that
10 LNG infrastructure is inherently a hazardous
11 and potentially attractive to terrorism. And
12 in 2013 an LNG plant was targeted by Al Qaeda.
13 If gas infrastructure grows in New York, as
14 proposed by the draft plan, those dangers will
15 grow as well and has not been addressed at all.
16 Thank you very much for taking my comments.

17 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much. Claire
18 Howard to be followed by Julia Walsh.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good afternoon. And
20 thank you all for being here with us today. My
21 name is Claire Howard. I come from the village
22 of Skaneateles that's just down the road. It's
23 eastern most Finger Lakes. I've lived there
24 most of my life. I'm 63-years-old, I was born
25 in 1950. But by the time benchmarks that are

1 made reference to in this plan come to pass, I
2 may not be on the planet. In 2050 most of us
3 in this room may not be here. So I don't speak
4 for myself, I speak for my children, my
5 grandchildren, your children, your
6 grandchildren and our great-grandchildren. The
7 seven generations as the Native American guides
8 tell us. If you can imagine this room
9 multiplied by many, many times and each seat
10 filled with one of our generations to come, a
11 child, a grandchild, a great-grandchild. What
12 we're planning for with this plan is for the
13 future generation. Not for us, but for the
14 future generation. So I hope that you listen
15 to all the scientific data that has been
16 portrayed today. I don't have a prepared
17 statement, I don't have facts and figures. I
18 just simply say that we put aside personal
19 agenda, politics, business as usual and that we
20 think creatively, that we think with a vision,
21 that we honor what we have learned. We have
22 clear, clean water to drink, good food to eat,
23 a stable climate to live in. Our children may
24 not have that unless we plan, starting with
25 this plan, to make their future one that's as

1 good as what we have had. So thank you very
2 much and good luck with the next version.

3 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much. Julia
4 Walsh. And may I just check if Linda Griggs
5 has returned to the room? After Julia Walsh
6 we'll have Reverend Nancy Kasper.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm the founder and
8 director of 4 Fracking Action. We're a member
9 organization of New Yorkers which is over 200
10 organizations across the state over a thousand
11 businesses and 300 faith leaders state-wide.
12 We will be submitting technical comments. I
13 want to start by acknowledging the work that
14 was done to produce this document. The many
15 hours and revisions, the dramatic shift over
16 the past few years by the administration that
17 one that appears to be a rush to now which is
18 as listening to this science. And the
19 scientific studies and evidence overwhelmingly
20 shows that fracking is inherent unsafe and it's
21 poisoning water and air and land across the
22 great country and make Americans sick. And
23 with this document, the process shows we
24 clearly have a long way to go. As you can tell
25 from being here at these public hearings, and

1 to your credit, Mr. Rhodes, it's great that
2 you're here in person, the people of the great
3 state care about New York State's Energy Plan
4 and future. I can sincerely say that we wanted
5 these to be a more accessible process, which
6 unfortunately is was not. Lastly, in a local
7 citizen organized forum on the Energy Plan with
8 two experts, over a hundred people turned out
9 to their local library that had adequate
10 parking, handicapped accessible and was in the
11 evening after work, a spirited two hour
12 dialogue discussion took place. That is what
13 we wanted the Energy Plan process to be like.
14 Instead, the hearings have been hard to access
15 and happen during the workday. I literally
16 risked my life to attend the first hearing in
17 Albany driving from New Paultz in bad weather
18 and passing car accidents on the way up only to
19 find an equally bad parking situation.
20 Syracuse isn't that much different. I was just
21 parking before I had to stop and park in order
22 to drive an elderly woman to the steps of this
23 building, and that's just simply unacceptable.
24 We need more hearings across the state that are
25 easily accessible to the public between now and

1 the end of April. We also need the missing
2 documents that are the foundation of the Draft
3 Energy Plan. The study on renewable energy
4 efficiency potentials and the greenhouse gas
5 inventory. It is obvious, just to those of who
6 are closely paying attention to the details,
7 that -- and there are many of us -- that the
8 plan was rushed politically. Instead of
9 pushing back into those studies that were
10 critical to be included in the completed form
11 with the draft plan, they were not. And so now
12 that you have literally been caught empty
13 handed for the third time today in a public
14 letter that colleague generated to give us the
15 missing studies both on the sustainable
16 renewable and energy efficiency potential and
17 the greenhouse gas inventory. I request that
18 you release these documents and an extended
19 comment period and new public hearings for the
20 citizens of the state. And before we have to
21 demand it again publicly through another public
22 sign-on letter with a dozen organizations, we
23 would much rather prefer to work with you
24 rather than to have to advocate over and over
25 again for the simplest demands. I want to make

1 my statement today at least with some personal
2 words. I didn't come here to participate in a
3 charade. And all of the good people who came
4 today to every hearing that's been happening
5 didn't come to participate in a charade. We
6 have other things to do. We have -- we're not
7 here because we like going to public hearings
8 or talking about the horrors of fracking and
9 gas infrastructure or climate change. We are
10 here because we are educated citizens who care.
11 Sometimes I'm asked what drives my movement, my
12 answer is always love. We are fighting for our
13 lives and the life of this beautiful planet
14 because we love our lives here, we love our
15 children, our families, our community, our
16 rivers and streams, farms and mountains across
17 the this great state. That is what drives this
18 movement. Ask anyone in the room here today
19 why they are here, and I can guarantee you that
20 four out of five people will say because of
21 their children and grandchildren. New York is
22 at a crossroads and we need to lead this nation
23 and the world with an aggressive renewable
24 Energy Plan and energy efficiency plan. We
25 need this plan to reflect not the ramping up of

1 gas infrastructure that will bring fracked gas
2 to our community at the expense of our
3 neighbors and Pennsylvania. We need this plan
4 to reflect the phasing out of the gas and gas
5 infrastructure. We need this plan to reflect
6 the step by step shutdown of every nuclear
7 reactor in the state. And as Fukushima showed
8 into our world, we have to finally learn and
9 accept that there are no such things as
10 evacuation plans. There's no evacuation plan
11 as climate changes become more and more
12 prevalent. There's nowhere else to go.
13 Mr. Rhodes, and fellow commissioners, the
14 people of New York want the New York State
15 Energy Plan to not be a mediocre piece of
16 writing with glossy photographs and charts that
17 will ultimately sit in an office building in
18 Albany collecting dust on a shelf, much like
19 the state's never released climate action plan.
20 No, we want the New York State Energy Plan to
21 be a living document. A real plan that we can
22 all build and create and achieve together with
23 you. We want to work with you to make sure
24 that New York is a leader that inspires the
25 country and the world of what is truly

1 possible; that we can stop this madness of
2 blowing up rocks for pockets of gas and instead
3 harness the energy of the sun and wind and
4 water. Let's create an Energy Plan that drives
5 an upstate economic resolution that will
6 support our young people, our unemployed with
7 manufacturing insulation of renewable
8 technologies. I mean this public session
9 should not be the end of this process, But
10 truly the beginning. We look forward to
11 working with you. Thank you.

12 MR. RHODES: Thank you. Reverend Nancy
13 Kasper to be followed by Roland Micklem.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Nancy Kasper.
15 I'm a mother and an ordained minister living in
16 and doing good work in the beautiful town of
17 North Rose, New York. I take a look at this
18 Energy Plan and I was pretty impressed. There
19 are a lot of words in here and beautiful glossy
20 pictures and very little substance to it. So I
21 brought along a copy of the Jacobson study for
22 you guys so on your next try, you can have it
23 right at your fingertips. So a little joke
24 here. Do you want to know how to make God
25 laugh? Tell him your plan. This rather

1 uninspired plan was conceived from a very
2 narrow, anthropocentric perspective. As if
3 humans were the only life form worth
4 considering. And it was constructed from a
5 false belief that we humans are separate from
6 nature. Here's a news flash: We cannot be
7 separate from nature. The big truth is we are
8 all connected. We are all connected.
9 Inextricably interconnected and interdependent
10 with all life. Except we seem to have
11 forgotten this truth because nowhere in this
12 plan is there any mention of the collateral
13 damage to wildlife, to animals, to natural
14 habitat, the forests and to other important
15 elements for life like water and air. All life
16 that will inevitably suffer, be damaged or
17 destroyed resulted with the implementation of
18 this plan. This plan has no heart, no
19 substance, no clear path or goal. It speaks in
20 vagaries and contradictions, contains conflict
21 of interest and hidden agendas. This plan does
22 not direct us to the correct action necessary
23 to avoid total ecosystem collapse. History has
24 shown us time and again that when humans
25 willfully destroy life in pursuit of power and

1 control, they ultimately destroy themselves.
2 What I see in this plan is a history repeating
3 itself today with our culture of consumerism
4 perpetuated by the myth that is wealth and
5 power. And power is control. And we believed
6 it well enough to give controlling power to
7 those with wealth. And the irony here is that
8 we're struggling today about energy. The
9 energy that powers consumerism, the energy that
10 creates wealth for the few who want to control
11 power at any cost. It's a vicious cycle of
12 destruction. A downward spiral of
13 self-destruction. And, in fact, humans are
14 effectively causing their own de-volution. This
15 plan was based on the false assumption that we
16 can dig our way out of this environmental mess.
17 See the paradox? The more we drill, the deeper
18 we get, the bigger the hole in the ozone. If
19 we continue down this path of fossil fuel
20 consumption, we'll end up destroying all life,
21 including our own. Our mother earth is already
22 giving clear evidence of our operating outside
23 of her laws of nature. She'll not support us
24 if we do not support life. And it is clear
25 that humans have already altered the condition

1 for life on earth. We are experiencing the
2 effects of what we have created in this
3 precariously imbalanced ecosystem that's now in
4 crisis. We can see that with mass species
5 extension, resources depletion and enviromental
6 degradation. You know it, we know it. We have
7 to face the fact that we have reached a
8 critical choice point. The alarm is sounding.
9 There's an urgent call to wake up from the old
10 dream and step into a power of possibility and
11 personal choice to create the future we imagine
12 for our grandchildren by becoming more
13 conscious, more loving and compassionate humans
14 on this planet. The time has come and it is
15 now. So I emphatically urge you to reject this
16 plan as an idea whose time has passed. Heed my
17 words, because when I look at this plan, I hear
18 God laughing, laughing to tears. Thank you.
19 John.

20 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much. Roland
21 Miclem to be followed by Patty Campbell.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good morning, or good
23 afternoon I guess it is right now. Being a
24 self-creative person, I'm not trying to brag,
25 you understand, I would deliver this message to

1 you in my own way and I hope you will all bare
2 with me. It goes something like this: When
3 they go a fracking in the Marcellus shale, the
4 water they will be using will get a thousand
5 wails; the gas that we'll be venting soon as
6 your drilling starts, will saturate the
7 atmosphere like one humungous fart; the stuff
8 they will be bringing up from way down
9 underground will make your gag and counter
10 start jumping up and down; those fracking
11 chemicals with names no one can spell, will
12 make a weary cocktail of a water in your well.
13 And then here we go on the final one I just got
14 through doing here. Now, way up here in New
15 York State where we're counting on the governor
16 and hoping he will come through for us when
17 push gets down to shove. Thank you for your
18 attention, Gentlemen. We're going to be doing
19 a musical called Sustainability and it will be
20 in North Rose Wilcott High School at t some
21 date later. If any of you fine gentlemen would
22 like to attend, just get in touch with me after
23 this thing is over and I will give you the
24 particulars. Thank you very much.

25 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much. Patty

1 Campbell to be followed by Michael Dixon.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm so happy to be
3 amongst all these people who I'm resonating
4 with and to have this opportunity. I don't
5 have too much to say because everyone else has
6 said my feelings. But one thing is that I hear
7 these individual comments for fracking and like
8 natural gas is the way to go, now I can send my
9 kids to college, I just hear it too frequently
10 everywhere. And, you know, a few years ago, I
11 think it was last year, I gave some money for a
12 counter ad but I never heard that counter ad,
13 so it's really hard for the average person to
14 speak as loudly as the gas companies. So
15 that's one point I want to make. The
16 transportation of the natural gas, I mean even
17 if we don't do natural gas in New York, the
18 transportation -- I mean I see more and more
19 trains with these gas cars and it's really
20 alarming. And in light of the accident in
21 Quebec and just that this is an accident
22 waiting to happen and it's just pretty scary.
23 And all -- this is some accident waiting to
24 happen with all this use of fossil fuels. And
25 I really also think that we need to get away

1 from the fossil fuels. Let's see, one thing
2 that so few people mention is conservation.
3 And I just want to say that I lived in a
4 beautiful old apartment building in Saratoga,
5 New York, it was like four-stories high. The
6 ceilings were like 12 to 15 feet high, really
7 high. And when it was cold, like it was last
8 night, it was so hot in there you would have
9 your windows open. So I think there's a lot of
10 these old buildings. And if we want to save
11 our old buildings, but couldn't there be some
12 address to the infrastructure maybe that would
13 help create some jobs. So jobs in that
14 section. And just asking ourselves what we can
15 do to change our lifestyles for more
16 conservation and just to see what we can do as
17 individuals. Thank you.

18 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much. Michael
19 Dixon and Kay Kin, they're both from -- one is
20 from the -- both from the Vienna Planning
21 Board. Neither are here.

22 Robert Henry.

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I pass. I agree with
24 everything that everyone said here today.

25 MR. RHODES: We've noted it, sir.

1 Kevin Bernstein to be followed by Phillip
2 Rose.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you for the
4 opportunity to speak to the board. My name is
5 Kevin Bernstein and I'm providing these remarks
6 on behalf of (inaudible) LLC, which is normally
7 known as Energy Extreme. I will have some
8 written comments by the end of the comment
9 deadline. The same state Energy Plan ignores a
10 critical source, and that's propane. The SEP
11 for short failed to identify any strategy or
12 initiative to enable access to a greater supply
13 of propane or development infrastructure to
14 assist with that effort address the supply
15 price that's still upon even in March. In
16 event testimony before the house energy power
17 subcommittee, it stated that, quote, "if
18 there's one lesson learned from the 2013/2014
19 winter, provided market conditions, it is that
20 the infrastructure network was inadequate to
21 meet consumers needs." There are a number of
22 facets to this, the and government can assist
23 in assuring that all human needs are met.
24 However, recent experiences with the proposed
25 Finger Lakes project located in Redding, New

1 York shows that unfortunately the government is
2 not assisting in trying to avert this crisis.
3 Constructing expanded underground storage in
4 the Finger Lakes area near Redding is essential
5 to meet the northeast's and New York's propane
6 needs. This is -- the northeast needs this, Ne
7 York State needs this and there's a local need
8 for greater propane infrastructure. In a 2010
9 report it stated that propane is an important
10 heating fuel in New York and the strong demand
11 during the winter heating system puts a strain
12 on the industry's ability to meet that demand.
13 New Yorkers and the entire region in general
14 are highly dependent on propane from outside
15 the region in New York. The Teppco Pipeline,
16 which delivers primarily from storage
17 facilities in Texas, recently had pipeline
18 capacity difficulty in propane supply in New
19 York. In recent testimony before the house
20 committee, that I mentioned earlier, the
21 National Propane Gas Association said that the
22 expansion of underground propane storage in the
23 Finger Lakes area near Redding is essential to
24 the northeast propane needs. Called on
25 Govenour Cuomo to approve the facility which

1 added over 88 million gallons of propane
2 storage in the region where demand far out
3 weighed local supply. But the State of New
4 York, including the DEC and the governor,
5 failed to make the decision. The underground
6 storage cavern has been nearly five years in
7 the permanent process with everything in the
8 way. The DEC wants it done, DEC has all
9 information it needs to make the final
10 decision, but yet the (inaudible.) We have
11 seen a number of challenges confronting the
12 propane supply chain ranging from pipeline
13 shutdowns to rail strikes in Canada to ships
14 not coming in on time from overseas. Supply
15 lines can and do break during the winter and
16 they have caused shortages in the past. This
17 winter propane marketers themselves needed to
18 drive long distances to obtain supply. Propane
19 industry proposes it addresses these issues and
20 their responsibility weighs through issues like
21 the Finger Lakes storage facility. And now the
22 difficulty stated in the energy plan itself
23 ignores the need and demand for propane in New
24 York despite the fact that the vision set forth
25 in the portion notes that New Yorkers face

1 rising costs in continuing in extreme weather.
2 Talk about how residential, commercial and
3 industrial customers have the tool to easily
4 and efficiently handle their consumers, but New
5 York has not taken into light these costs to
6 customers to utilize one of these tools,
7 storage. Finger Lakes ultimately makes
8 available to 2.1 million additional or
9 88 million gallons mentioned of local supplies
10 that will be immediately available. Approval
11 of that improves the resistance of propane
12 infrastructure in other regions in the US. In
13 recent weeks a major storage facility in
14 Ontario has seen very high demand to its
15 propane to New York, New England and the mid
16 west. Were the Finger Lakes facility to be in
17 operation, would dramatically reduce New York's
18 demand for propane stored in those areas.
19 Approving the Finger Lakes facility would have
20 benefits beyond New York and New England.
21 However, unfortunately regulatory inaction has
22 caused consumers to (inaudible) the impact or
23 willingness of companies to invest in New York,
24 which we understand or understood to be open
25 for business. These issues must be addressed

1 in the final SEP. And it is time for
2 government action because New York consumers
3 and residents cannot afford this. Thank you
4 very much.

5 MR. RHODES: Thank you. Philip Rose to be
6 followed by Matthew Lemke.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Philip Rose
8 and I live in a little town called Fenner, New
9 York. Fenner has public parking, it has a
10 clean hydropower station and a solar system for
11 pouring that facility with leaders with
12 alternative energy and renewables. And myself
13 and a number of our citizens conducted a
14 petition drive several months ago where
15 70 percent of our -- of all registered voters
16 in our town issued a ban on hydrofracking.
17 It's pretty clear that the that the public is
18 well educated about issues. You have heard
19 testimony continually about what this really
20 means. The season for fossil fuels is almost
21 over. It's ending. We already see the end of
22 it, so to put any real serious thought that is
23 really limited and short-sighted. So
24 renewables is with us. We can really do this,
25 obviously if we put our minds to it. If we

1 lean the human intelligence toward this
2 problem, we can solve it creatively and
3 cleanly. We don't need to continue these other
4 processes that urge -- that are not working.

5 The plan really needs to be a visionary plan.
6 It needs a -- it needs to have steps that
7 really put in the direction of a sustainability
8 planet, a sustainability state. Nobody want
9 this other environment. We have all benefited
10 over the years, but the need is really on this.
11 So what the plan needs to do? It needs to,
12 first of all, to really increase the capacity
13 of electricity to handle the renewables. It
14 really needs a plan how this electricity is
15 going to solve the problem. If we're going to
16 use our cars and our homes with electricity, we
17 need to be powered by this. We need to really
18 increase that dramatically. We need clear
19 benchmarks that aren't part of this plan. We
20 need to eliminate hydrofracking. We need to
21 decommission nuclear power. We need to develop
22 alternative transportation methods. We need to
23 really look at this (indicating). I work in
24 Syracuse. I drive around. I see these new
25 construction going up for buildings and clearly

1 they're using none of these new techniques.

2 Where are the guidelines? There's no passive
3 solar being used. The insulation looks minimal
4 to me. It's really poor construction. Housing
5 projects going up, these buildings going up.
6 They don't take into any consideration all
7 the -- what we've learned on how to reduce
8 energy needs. So there needs to be strong
9 legislation and guidelines for construction and
10 for refitting all the homes that we have now
11 and public funds to do that. Liquified gas, I
12 mean this is a disaster. Nuclear is a
13 disaster. I mean it's clear we need to bring
14 people to the table. Really need to bring
15 people who have done this research. There's
16 some incredible intelligence and information
17 out there now about this. It's global too.

18 You know, America needs to step up. New York
19 needs to step up and really be part of that.
20 We can no longer be obstructing the future.
21 The planet is calling for this. We need to
22 participate in that. The people need to be
23 brought to the table. I think that's all I
24 want to say. And I appreciate your coming
25 here, I appreciate you listening and I really

1 look forward to working with you in the future
2 to really make this a sustainable planet.

3 MR. RHODES: Thank you. Matthew Lemke to
4 be followed by Richard Montana. And then I'm
5 gonna suggest a five minute break at that point.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good afternoon and thank
7 you for this opportunity to testify today on
8 the 2014 draft Energy Plan. My name is Matthew
9 Lemke and I'm the Southern Tier Organizer and
10 SUNY Binghamton Project Coordinator with the
11 New York Public Interest Research Group.
12 NYPIRG is the state's largest consumer and
13 environmental advocacy organization. And
14 NYPIRG representatives have spoken and on
15 different topics at each of the scheduled
16 hearings on the Draft State Energy Plan. And
17 we'll submit formal comments, written comments,
18 at a later date. I will focus my comments
19 today on how the plan addresses natural gas.
20 The Draft State Energy is entitled New York,
21 Shaping the Future of Energy. And two of its
22 four key metrics are a cleaner environment and
23 improved energy affordability. However, the
24 plan forecasts significant increases in
25 consumption of natural gas to meet our energy

1 needs as well as forecasting the tripling of
2 natural gas production from shale deposits
3 within New York with the use of fracking.
4 Relying on natural gas, especially from
5 fracking, within New York or beyond it's
6 borders seriously undermines both of those
7 goals. The plan envisions a massive increase
8 in natural gas use in New York over the next 20
9 years requiring significant buildout of natural
10 gas infrastructure. The plan contains
11 initiatives to encourage oil to gas conversion
12 for heating buildings, accelerate investments
13 in natural gas distribution rely more heavily
14 on natural gas for electricity generation and
15 embrace fracked gas from other states.

16 So let's talk about the environmental
17 impact. Increasing reliance on fracked gas to
18 meet our energy needs will not result in a
19 cleaner environment. Fracking results in
20 significant methane emissions during every step
21 of the process, extraction, transportation and
22 distribution. And pound for pound methane is
23 far more a potent greenhouse gas climate change
24 than carbon dioxide. The state must look at
25 all greenhouse gas emissions, not just carbon

1 dioxide. If we're serious about addressing
2 climate change, methane emissions were fracked
3 shale gas seriously undermines any benefits of
4 reducing carbon emissions by converting from
5 other fossil fuels to natural gas. The state
6 simply cannot meet its goal of reducing
7 greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by 2050
8 under this plan. Methane is a far more potent
9 climate change agent than carbon dioxide and a
10 massive shift toward natural gas, especially
11 fracked gas, will undermined the plan's stated
12 goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

13 In addition to greenhouse gas emissions,
14 fracking is a dangerous polluting process and
15 the impacts of fracking on water and air
16 quality are ignore completely in this plan.
17 These impacts have not been acknowledged and
18 accounted for in this plan, despite an entire
19 section of Volume 2 being dedicated to impact
20 and consideration. While this plan states that
21 this does not call for fracking to be allowed
22 in New York, this claim is contradicted by the
23 forecasts included in this plan. Indeed the
24 plan's assumption that natural gas production
25 will more than triple within New York State by

1 2035 can only be achieved by allowing fracking.
2 If a key goal is to protect the environment
3 here in New York, then fracking must be banned
4 and the plan must chart a course to wean New
5 York off natural gas, not increase our reliance
6 on it.

7 So let talk a little about the consumer
8 impact. Heavy reliance on natural gas would
9 leave consumers vulnerable to the volatile
10 fossil fuels market undermining the plan's core
11 goal of energy affordability. Given the
12 likelihood of regulatory and global market
13 changes, this plan's failure to account for
14 those would leave consumers in the lurch. The
15 plan relies on price forecasts that operate
16 under the assumption that current laws and
17 regulations remain generally unchanged through
18 the projection period. With more information
19 coming out about the negative impacts of
20 fracking, national and state laws and
21 regulations are very likely to be strengthened.
22 This is already happening. In fact, since this
23 draft plan was released, Colorado announced new
24 emission regulations for fracking. Therefore,
25 relvinq the assumption of an unchanged

1 regulatory regime is a clear flaw that leaves
2 consumers vulnerable to price spikes. Also the
3 plan explicitly acknowledge the potential for
4 increased export of natural gas and resulting
5 price volatility that would be created, by the
6 plan only calls for monitoring the situation.
7 Given the numerous currently proposed export
8 terminals failing to account for the drastic
9 price increases that global export of natural
10 gas will inevitably cause in domestic market is
11 a serious shortcoming that leaves consumers
12 vulnerable. Instead of increasing our reliance
13 on natural gas and putting rate payers, public
14 health and our environment at risk, the state
15 needs to maximize its commitment to renewable
16 energy and energy efficiency. The final plan
17 must be strengthened to account for the
18 negative environment and consumers impacts from
19 fracking and natural gas reliance, provide a
20 clear road map for moving away from fossil
21 fuels, including natural gas, and move New York
22 toward a carbon free nuclear free future.
23 Quite frankly, New York deserves better. Thank
24 you once again for this opportunity to testify
25 here today.

1 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Rich Montana
3 and I live essentially on Long Island but I
4 spent the last four years of my life in Central
5 New York completing an undergraduate degree at
6 SUNY Cortland. I'm here right now because I'm
7 concerned and an informed citizen of New York
8 State. Before I start I would like to thank
9 you for your time and allowing me to share my
10 thoughts and opinions here today. The main
11 point of this draft state Energy Plan is to
12 have a cleaner environment and improved energy
13 affordability, one obstacle to achieve those
14 goals would be hydrofracking being permitted in
15 New York State. To achieve these goals, the
16 state must put a ban on hydrofracking. The
17 current methane use and the drilling coupled
18 with hydrofracking and the dangers that
19 surround our environment at the fracking sites.
20 This method of fracking a natural gas provided
21 both air and water would result in significant
22 methane leakage previously noted. If New York
23 State's goal to reduce greenhouse emissions by
24 80 percent by 2015, that's previously promised
25 by executive order, hydrofracking cannot be

1 part of New York State's future. In an attempt
2 to curb gas emissions, renewable resources are
3 needed in a greater effort to make solar and
4 wind power available to the average household
5 must be made available to make reusable energy
6 more accessible to the average family.
7 Introduce them at a young age. Put solar
8 panels on public schools would be widely
9 beneficial to educate the youth on green energy
10 as well as setting positive examples and
11 providing public schools with reusable energy
12 sources. Furthermore, attention must be paid
13 to our nuclear program. Nuclear sites are
14 clear and present hazards for our communities.
15 They pose a serious threat for a wide variety
16 of accidents as well natural disasters.
17 Nuclear energy should be halted in the State of
18 New York. Active nuclear sites in New York
19 should be subjected to the highest safety and
20 regulatory standards. Thank you, again, for
21 giving me an opportunity to speak today. I
22 hope this time will result in a cleaner, better
23 environment for New York State.

24 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much. We'll
25 take a break at this point. We'll shoot for

1 five minutes and then we'll resume.

2 (A brief recess was taken.)

3 MR. RHODES: Zachary Allen to be followed
4 by Nicole Clark.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. My name is
6 Zachary Clark and I'm a student at SUNY
7 Cortland pursuing currently a degree in
8 conservation biology.

9 So the issues presented in the Draft
10 Energy Plan strike me as incredibility
11 important to address. I would like to thank
12 you for this opportunity to speak as a
13 concerned resident of New York State. I would
14 like to discuss climate change and how New York
15 State addresses these issues.

16 In the Draft State Energy Plan state is
17 not adequately meeting our need to reduce
18 greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050.
19 The plan focuses on reducing CO2 emissions but
20 fails to account for other greenhouse gasses
21 which are more potent, such as methane. To
22 combat this issue, the final energy budget must
23 include a 14 percent reduction of greenhouse
24 gas emissions by 2018 from 2011 levels and
25 20 percent reduction by 2021. In order to meet

1 our 80 percent by 2050 reduction in emissions,
2 we need to move away from fossil fuels like
3 natural gas that release large amounts of
4 greenhouse gasses like methane through burning
5 and drilling for it through hydrofracking. We
6 also need to transition our energy system to a
7 clean renewable system and support energy
8 efficiency.

9 I grew up in the Adirondacks and I would
10 love to see the healthy and clean New York
11 State I saw as a child stay clean. And the
12 only way that can happen is through support of
13 the renewable energy resources and reducing
14 emissions as well as improving energy
15 efficiency. Thank you for your time.

16 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much. Nicole
17 Clark to be followed by Diane Swords.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I want to thank you for
19 giving me an opportunity to speak to you today.
20 My name is Nicole Clarke and I live in East
21 Islip on Long Island. I'm currently a student
22 at SUNY Cortland. The reason I'm talking to
23 you today is to express my concern for the
24 future of Central New York, which is my local
25 environment.

1 Everyone here today can agree that we need
2 to reshape the future of energy in New York.
3 Coincidentally, that's the title of our Draft
4 State Energy Plan. However, the goals of
5 reaching a cleaner environment and improving
6 energy affordability is not realized in this
7 plan. The plan proposes that a massive
8 increase in natural gas and use in New York
9 over the next 20 years with a significant
10 buildout of natural gas infrastructure and
11 hydrofracking. This is implying that we would
12 have to rely on fracked gas to meet this energy
13 goal but this will not result in a cleaner
14 environment.

15 Obviously fracking is a dangerous
16 polluting process and the impacts a fracking on
17 water and air quality are ignored completely.
18 These impacts have not been acknowledged or
19 accounted for in this plan. We would be taking
20 one step forward and about 20 steps back if we
21 allow for fracking in the State of New York.
22 If the main goal is to protect the environment,
23 fracking is not the answer.

24 I take the this issue personally because
25 my residency for four years will be Central New

1 York. I've made personal connections within
2 this community and I care deeply about their
3 future. Hopefully listening to us today will
4 help make the plan making New York wean off of
5 natural gas and not increase our reliance on
6 it. The cards are in your hands. Thank you.

7 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much. Diane
8 Swords.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: She left.

10 MR. RHODES: Jessica Johnnes to be
11 followed by Maria Sherwood.

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you. My name is
13 Jessica Johnnes. I'm a recent graduate of SUNY
14 Purchase and I currently live in Cortland, New
15 York. I want to thank you for the time and the
16 opportunity to speak before you today. I would
17 like to talk to you about the New York State
18 Draft Energy Plan proposal to increase the
19 consumption of natural gas in order to meet New
20 York's energy needs.

21 Not only do I feel this is the wrong
22 direction New York needs to take to reach a
23 more sustainable energy future, but this
24 proposal also falls short on the promises New
25 York has already made to combat global warming.

1 I've lived in Upstate New York for my entire
2 life, which means for me, and most everyone in
3 this room, hydrofracking is not a new word. My
4 family owns a 114 acre farm that sits squarely
5 on Marcellus shale and we've been offered to
6 lease our land, as well as our neighbor
7 farmers. The monetary promises offered to us
8 have not been lost on our ears either. My
9 mother was diagnosed with cancer five years
10 ago. At that time she was the sole breadwinner
11 in the house and she passed away less than a
12 year later. My step-father, who does not have
13 a college degree that is almost necessary
14 today, was fortunate enough to find work and
15 we've been able to keep our property. Our
16 story is not so different from many stories
17 that are exemplified by the gas industry, but
18 my family chose not to frack. The more New
19 York State holds off on hydrofracking, the more
20 science reveals the deep and lasting
21 environmental effect of this process.

22 We can just look to our neighbors of the
23 south to see numerous mishandling of waste
24 water, contamination to well water, the
25 degradation of air quality and the degradation

1 of road infrastructure. The New York State
2 Draft Energy Plan completely ignores the
3 pollution to our water and impacts on air
4 quality and does not acknowledge an adequate
5 system to deal with these repercussions. These
6 repercussions affect our health and ultimately
7 undermine whatever initial economic advantages
8 that are produced. We need to focus on the
9 long-term solutions that solve our energy
10 problem.

11 What is more concerning for me is that New
12 York State has a commitment to reduce
13 greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by year
14 2050. This is a commitment to combat global
15 warming and develop our state towards a cleaner
16 energy future. This goal simply cannot be met
17 by hydrofracking and building infrastructure
18 dependence on natural gas in New York.
19 Hydrofracking releases significant methane
20 emissions -- as many people have said today --
21 all along the development process and, as you
22 know, methane is more potent greenhouse gas
23 than even CO2.

24 I'm calling for a revision in the New York
25 Energy Plan that will focus our promise of

1 80 percent by 2050. To do this, our 50 percent
2 by 2030 goal should include all greenhouse gas
3 emissions, not just CO2. I would also like to
4 see mid-terms targets of 14 percent by 2018 and
5 20 percent by 2021 that will help ensure our
6 goal. Ultimately, I want to see the expansion
7 of renewable technologies such as solar and
8 wind power and not natural gas. I want to see
9 a beautiful New York and focus on renewable
10 energies that will set us on the path to get us
11 there. Again, thank you for your time.

12 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much. Maria
13 Sherwood.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: She left.

15 MR. RHODES: Kaylee Marlow to be followed
16 by Evan Greenberg.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good afternoon. And
18 thank you for allowing me to speak today.
19 Before I say anything, I want to note that
20 we've heard a lot of stuff bad about fracking,
21 and just to bring some balance I want to say
22 something good about fracking. I mean the
23 ability to make tap water flammable is a
24 scientific achievement, it's very useful in
25 entertaining small children, other than that,

1 there are really no benefits to hydrofracking
2 and it's absurd that we have not it yet. We
3 have only have to look to Pennsylvania to see
4 the benefits of hydrofracking. I could pull up
5 my cell phone and go on Youtube right now and
6 find at least a dozen videos of pipe leaks,
7 pipe explosions and hydrofracking incident. I
8 could find 900 different articles on those
9 subjects. I could find 900 different articles
10 on nuclear energy. They can see what disasters
11 can happen here. Because according to reports
12 that I read time ago, the nuclear power plants
13 in the United States are built by the exact
14 same design as nuclear power plants in Japan.
15 That means what happened to Japan can happen
16 here. That scares me considering we have -- I
17 think we have three nuclear plants in New York,
18 and some of which are around where I live and
19 that scares me. I think we need to transition
20 to a green energy efficiency in New York. The
21 only sector that did better in the recession
22 in, the great recession, was the green sector.
23 I think we had to just keep on reinvesting this
24 green entity. We need a hydrofracking ban.
25 The dangers are real and the science is on our

1 side. So I just want you to ban hydrofracking
2 and then we'll come back and have another
3 discussion on it. Thank you. Have a nice day.

4 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much. Evan
5 Greenberg to be followed by Mona Perrotti.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Evan
7 Greenberg and I'm a student at Binghamton
8 University. Thank you for the opportunity to
9 speak today. I may not wake up every morning
10 and put a suit on, I may not shave my face and
11 comb my regularly, I may not have a speech
12 printed or any public experience whatsoever, I
13 may not have a long family legacy in politics,
14 I may not have a huge policy campaign followed
15 by big business, but I'm still an American
16 citizen and I deserve to have my voice heard.
17 I desire to drink clean water, I desire to have
18 a clean environment available to me. The use
19 of natural gas in this state is not the
20 solution to the environmental energy problem we
21 are facing. Fracking will reduce our plant and
22 water making consumption nearly impossible. It
23 will diminish property value, exaserbate
24 climate change and hinder any growth in the
25 green energy we need. We need to invest in

1 green clean wind and solar electric power.
2 This will not only create jobs, but it will
3 also reduce the greenhouse gas emissions. We
4 need to set goals and planning needs of
5 reaching them instead of increasing natural gas
6 production. We need to increase renewable
7 energy production. Our future should be full
8 of clear water and land. Our lives and our
9 children's lives should see progress toward
10 sustainability, not toward larger reliance on
11 promoting fossil fuels. Thank you for giving
12 me this opportunity to speak here today and
13 thank you for taking my opinion and the
14 opinions of all these educated people into
15 consideration when this Energy Plan is drafted
16 and revised.

17 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much. Mona
18 Perrotti followed by Sandy Scofield.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. Thank you, I'm
20 glad to be here today and I thank you for this
21 opportunity to come and speak on the Energy
22 Plan draft. I'm from Clinton in the Utica area
23 and I do wish, I would like to say, that you
24 have included other hearing dates in other
25 areas of the state. Certainly Binghamton area

1 and Utica. And had you considered better
2 parking arrangements.

3 To the plan. I question the plan's
4 reliance on, and indeed that seems to be a
5 vigorous push for, greater dependence on the
6 use of natural gas in years ahead. This
7 document does not address the real dangers and
8 impacts of fracked gas production,
9 transportation and usage. The plan does
10 mention in a gentleman way a certain for health
11 and environmental issues but does not
12 specifically address the concerns. The release
13 of powerful greenhouse gas methane is barely
14 noted. And it is unaddressed in the plan. I
15 ask how you can present a plan that purports to
16 take us safely into the future without firmly
17 acknowledging these realities and using this
18 knowledge to shape a true plan. I question
19 this draft with a serious plan because it
20 implies a greater use of climate changing
21 fossil fuels and ignore the opportunity to
22 create an aggressive and effective blueprint
23 based on conservation and renewable energy
24 resources. I ask that you redraft this plan,
25 which does not contain clear goals and mandates

1 and benchmarks with time frames. I ask that
2 you reconsider what you have in place and have
3 our energy production come from a true
4 renewable resource. These figures stand in the
5 strict contrast to renewable energy production
6 already achieved by other nations. In fact,
7 within the past few years it was revealed that
8 wind power had become the largest environment
9 production sector in Spain. In 2013 Mark
10 Jacobson and others revealed a detailed report
11 that lays out a specific plan for New York
12 State to achieve a fully renewable energy
13 future or reality by 2030. I did not see that
14 valuable report referenced any place in your
15 plan and I ask why not. I would like you to
16 know how difficult it was to repeat, at least
17 easily, references within the plan to clean
18 energy, which was not clearly defined but which
19 clearly indicated to me natural gas was
20 included. Each of us here, including all of
21 you I believe on stage, knows that the term
22 clean energy cannot be applied to the fossil
23 fuel natural gas. In my eyes, this
24 misapplication of the word clean compromises
25 the draft document. Also there was the

1 repeated use of the word consumers. I believe
2 that this plan, while it should, of course,
3 recognize the energy needs of its citizens for
4 the environment, needs of this should speak to
5 the citizens of New York who are looking for an
6 outline path toward a safer energy end future
7 for us all. Please reconsider this plan.

8 There's no more important responsibility than
9 getting our energy future right and I ask that
10 you just do that. Thank you.

11 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much. Sandy
12 Scofield to be followed by Jessica Azuley.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Sandy
14 Scofield and I'm from Clinton, New York and I
15 appreciate you planning a day for us to be able
16 to get to your hearing, thank you very much.
17 It seems that this Energy Plan puts a major
18 reliance on natural gas. Not a good plan. Gas
19 is a depletable, finite resource. I've heard
20 that fracked wells are productive for only six
21 to 20 years maximum. What do we do when the
22 gas runs out? What is New York State's Energy
23 Plan then? Resource depletion should be
24 addressed in any Energy Plan that is drawn up.
25 And actually I don't see why we couldn't leave

1 the gas in the ground for future generations
2 when fossil fuels will be extremely scarce.
3 What I would like to know, and I -- actually
4 from the Energy Plan, is how to retrofit my
5 home for new sources of energy? I rely on gas,
6 darn it all. And I sure would like to have a
7 way to figure out how to retrofit my home. I
8 would also like to know guidelines and
9 incentives to help communities provide their
10 own decentralized energy that Al Gore talked
11 about so long ago. Decentralizing energy is
12 the safest as far as security goes. The safest
13 way to go. And probably a much more efficient
14 way for us to produce energy. I would like to
15 know what intensives will be provided for
16 developing renewables and what are -- these
17 maybe. There's a renewable that we haven't
18 even talked about yet, nobody has mentioned
19 hydrogen. The Energy Plan could provided
20 models of innovative projects that are
21 currently happening in our county. For
22 instance, just the other day over at Oneida
23 County Sheriff Rob Maciol announced that our
24 county prison will be the first in the state to
25 be completely fuel by solar energy on an

1 eight acre site. These examples should be part
2 of an Energy Plan for other communities. And
3 I'm sure there's many other examples, so...
4 The new Energy Plan should focus on helping New
5 York transition from fossil fuels to
6 renewables. And I ask you to come back with a
7 forward looking innovative, inspirational plan
8 making renewables our major source of energy.
9 Thank you so much.

10 MR. RHODES: Thank you so much. Jessica
11 Azuley to be followed by Issac Silberman.

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Jessica
13 Silberman. I'm the program director for the
14 Alliance for a Green Economy, a coalition of
15 grassroots organizations working together on
16 environmental and energy issues in New York.

17 Like so many here, AGREE objects to this
18 plan's promotion of natural gas. A lot of
19 people have talked about this; the conversion
20 of oil to natural gas and home heating the
21 construction of new natural gas pipelines.
22 This is the wrong direction. And we also urge
23 you to, in fact we demand, real targets for
24 this plan and for how we're going to meet the
25 goals that have already been set by the state

1 for renewable energy and efficiency by 2015.

2 You note in the plan we're really struggling,
3 but we don't see a real clear plan in this
4 document for how we're going to reach those
5 goals next year. We also don't see clear goals
6 for 2020 and 2025 for renewable energy and
7 energy efficiency. So we really need these to
8 be part of the Energy Plan. Since so many
9 people are talking about natural gas today, I'm
10 actually going to focus my remarks on nuclear
11 in the plan. The Alliance for a Green Economy
12 is one of the main watch dog organizations for
13 nuclear reactors here in Central New York. So
14 New York has six nuclear reactors, all of which
15 are scheduled to retire by 2050. The draft
16 energy plan inexplicably ignores this
17 retirement schedule. It's not mentioned in the
18 plan. Two of these reactors, Nine Mile Point 1
19 and Ginna, are two of the oldest nuclear
20 reactors in the US and they're scheduled to
21 retire in 2029. Yet the plan projects nuclear
22 generation levels for 2030 above what they are
23 today. There's no rational basis for this.

24 The retirement schedule for the state's nuclear
25 reactor must be accounted for in the final

1 energy plan. We should see that 2030 number go
2 down based on these retirements that are
3 scheduled. We believe that nuclear closures
4 will likely come sooner rather than later for
5 many of the reactors here in New York. The
6 nuclear industry in the US is seeing a record
7 number of plant closures due to a combination
8 of rising maintenance costs and inability to
9 complete with low cost alternatives, including
10 wind and solar. Various economists have put
11 many of New York's reactors on the short list
12 of most likely to retire early. Specifically
13 Fitzpatrick in Oswego, is owned by Entergy, is
14 already losing money according to analysts.
15 Entergy is cutting workforce at Fitzpatrick and
16 failing to fix critical equipment like their
17 expensive condenser, which has caused numerous
18 unplanned power changes in the last year. We
19 know it is up for replacement and they have not
20 completed to replace it because it costs so
21 much. Unless Entergy can wrangle some kind of
22 subsidy from the state, Fitzpatrick might
23 should down due to financial loss in the not
24 too distant future. The next is Ginna in Wayne
25 County will see its above market contract end

1 this summer and may also close early due to
2 financial distress. But we don't see any of
3 this in the Energy Plan. It's important to
4 remember that all of New York's nuclear
5 reactors threaten public health and safety,
6 especially as they age as the companies resist
7 spending money to maintain them. Every day
8 these reactors operate we are at risk of an
9 accident. Meanwhile, all of these reactors are
10 creating nuclear waste that will remain
11 radioactive and extremely dangerous for tens of
12 thousands of years. The Nuclear Regulatory
13 Commission has no plan for how it's going to
14 move this waste to a permanent repository and
15 so it remains local in the community in storage
16 containers that are not designed for long-term
17 storage. Other than Indian Point, which the
18 state is working to close by preventing
19 relicensing, there's no mention of the possible
20 early nuclear closures and no consideration in
21 the plan for how nuclear power will be
22 replaced. The Energy Plan should include
23 contingency plans for all nuclear reactor
24 replacement and these should include strategies
25 for replacing nuclear power with renewable

1 energy efficiency and policies that will
2 facilitate a just transition for nuclear
3 workers and reactor communities.

4 I just want to use the remainder of my
5 time now to deliver a letter signed by 36
6 organizations demanding that the Energy
7 Planning Board release to the public two
8 documents that are footnoted in this plan but
9 which we haven't seen: They're the forthcoming
10 greenhouse gas inventory and the study on
11 efficiency and renewable potential in New York.
12 These are critical documents for the Energy
13 Plan. We've wanted to see what this study says
14 of what that potential is for energy efficiency
15 and renewables in New York. And the ways it's
16 discussed in the plan lead me to believe that
17 it's flawed and I would like to see that so I
18 can comment on it as part of the public comment
19 process. So I hope that you will release those
20 plans, even in the draft form that they're
21 used, to inform the energy plan and to extend
22 the public comment period to give us adequate
23 time to analyze the studies that have formed
24 this Energy Plan and allow us to comment on
25 them. Thank you.

1 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much. Issac
2 Silberman.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Issac
4 Silberman. I'm from the organization Citizens
5 Action of New York based out of Binghamton. I
6 really appreciate the opportunity to speak
7 today. At the same time I do want to
8 acknowledge some points with accessibility
9 today. Parking was a bit of a bear. Like I
10 said, I came up from Binghamton and traveled
11 with this fine, beautiful human being to my
12 left who, while is quite mobile, we had quite a
13 walk to get here.

14 So one point that I actually want to
15 disagree with is nearly everyone who has spoken
16 today is the usage of the word natural gas.

17 This is fracked gas. That's what it needs to
18 be referred to in this document, and in all
19 other plans as well. So I live eight miles
20 above the border of Pennsylvania in Broome
21 County. Along that border there's fracking
22 going on as close to the border as the law
23 allow. These people are getting sick. There's
24 contamination of air and water is not some
25 strange abstract thing to me or my community,

1 nor are the effects of climate change. We
2 suffered from two multi-hundred year floods in
3 2006, 2011. So we're on the frontline for the
4 potential for fracking and also for climate
5 change. So it's not okay to balance an Energy
6 Plan on the backs of rural Pennsylvania and
7 potentially rural New York. You can clap if
8 you want to, thank you. Fracked gas is a
9 derailment fuel. It's not a bridge fuel.

10 Natural gas and bridge fuels, both terms that
11 were -- that were created by people who are
12 much better paid than myself and my colleagues
13 in the industry that try to intentionally
14 mislead the public. And investments in
15 fracking infrastructure and pipelines, et
16 cetera is a 50 to 80 year commitment in fracked
17 gas as of a fuel. In Pennsylvania there are
18 almost 9,000 active wells. There are over
19 50,000 planned. They're a fifth of the way
20 through in the New York. There are 50 to
21 100,000 fracked well pads planned. That's
22 absolutely unacceptable. This plan is very
23 vague. I would say everyone here agrees that
24 it implicitly calls for more fracking. Right
25 now there are 15 million Americans in 11 states

1 who live within one mile of a fracking well.
2 Within one mile. What you're seeing is
3 industry arrogance coming out. You're seeing
4 the cover-ups that they're pulling. And we
5 live with this as a very stark amount. Now,
6 meanwhile you all, you gentlemen and ladies
7 that I'm addressing right now, you have the
8 opportunity to lead us. You really do. This
9 is about my future. I'm young. I got
10 organizing completely by accident young, but
11 this is my future. Do I want to have -- I
12 honestly don't, I'm 24-years-old, whether I can
13 honestly bring kids into this world. And I
14 call on all of you to lead us. You have the
15 information, it's out there. There are people
16 who can -- there's going to be incredible
17 amounts of technical information that's readily
18 available. There's renewable energy that's
19 possible. And we need it. And we demand it.
20 We need it in the southern tier. The southern
21 tier can be a hotbed for it and that's, well,
22 what we need. So I appreciate the clapping to
23 comments. I encourage all of you to come into
24 our drilling sites in Pennsylvania, come home
25 with nose bleeds, come home with headaches,

1 come home having to take a map for four hours
2 because of who the hell knows what's in the
3 air. This is a stark reality that we live with
4 in the southern tier. Along with our community
5 being mapped out for the pipelines. The grid
6 work is already mapped out. EPA requires, in
7 order for frack to occur, you need to have a
8 pipeline within a mile. That's the -- that's a
9 the completion. And those pipelines, meanwhile
10 they're leaking and making people sick and
11 we're not okay with that, and we really demand
12 that you take us through a renewable future
13 that we have. I really appreciate the
14 comments. Have a great day. Thank you.

15 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much. I
16 didn't call a fellow speaker. Casey Marlow
17 followed by Geoff Wright.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you. Thank you
19 for giving me a chance to speak. I stepped out
20 for a minute but came back. And I just want to
21 say that thank you again for having this panel.
22 I felt a little bit like the parking to get
23 here was a little bit like a -- you know, the
24 charge for the parking for a public hearing and
25 it was far away and was uphill. If

1 hydrofracking does go through, which I
2 sincerely hope it doesn't, it will not, I'm
3 totally willing to lay my life on the line to
4 stop it as much as I can. We need a plan that
5 aligns with the innovative and forward thinking
6 for the organized movement and power
7 industries. One which supports the rich
8 agriculture of our region. Hydrofracking,
9 which is implicit in the Energy Plan being laid
10 out, threatens local economies. We need
11 general plan, an honest Energy Plan, solely
12 complies to the clean power of solar, wind and
13 water. We need an energy leader, not followers
14 behold into corporate gas and oil industry that
15 have little to no connection to our community.

16 The targets percentage of renewable energy in
17 this plan should be 100 percent as soon as
18 possible. And so I live just southeast of here
19 in a small town. I have solar and wind power
20 on our little place and on a land trust and I
21 know that it takes -- how much energy it takes
22 to turn on a light bulb. And we practice very
23 strong conservation. As there's a nearby
24 organic dairy farm who farms for their 100 plus
25 cow farm to use exclusive solar energy. And

1 energy plan should take into account the real
2 production done cost of energy, present cost,
3 community and landscape and quality of life.
4 Infrastructure will effect home value and
5 health. I really want to see more renewables
6 in the energy plan. Thank you.

7 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much. Geoff
8 Wright followed by David Fischer.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. I'm Geoff Wright
10 I live here in Syracuse in a suburb. I would
11 like to be able to thank this panel for being
12 open to our comments, and I do. However, it
13 couldn't have been made more difficult to get
14 here if it had been planned that way. Not to
15 be directly confrontational to the whole panel,
16 but at least one of you here okayed this
17 location while being aware of the unusual
18 complication it would pose to those wishing to
19 attend. Besides it's our obligation, it's
20 climate change. It's our obligation. I'm here
21 because I have a daughter who will be 64 in
22 2050. She's given us three beautiful
23 grandchildren and they will be 44, 40 and 38
24 respectively in 2050. We have -- as a million
25 of our children here -- we have an obligation

1 to be a good father and grandfather and simply
2 responsible adults here. But my obligation to
3 show up and rally and to comment here carries
4 very little impact as compared to your
5 obligation as the persons who actually
6 influence policy to effectively protect the
7 future of our future generations.

8 Now, at the intentional risk of sounding a
9 little confrontational, I would like to make an
10 observation of what seems to be the obvious.

11 The plan couldn't have been more favorable to
12 the gas and oil industry as a whole if it had
13 been written by an agent of the gas and oil
14 industry itself. Might believe that the
15 authors of the New York State Energy Plan
16 acting as agents of humanity as a whole can do
17 much, much better than this. Thank you.

18 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: This may seem a lot like
20 what the others have said. I'm going to
21 reiterate it in my own words. My name is David
22 Fischer. I'm the chair of the Sierra Group,
23 more specifically (inaudible) and more
24 specifically an expert on mushrooms. I'm also
25 a father and I'm a grandfather. And in 2009,

1 after hearing an increase of global warming was
2 something Al Gore recently made up for
3 political reasons, I chose to bring myself into
4 it and get some hard data on global warming.
5 That's the most sobering investigation any
6 evolutionary biologist can pursue. If you
7 understand that for the species of this planet
8 from a condition within which homosapien
9 evolved, you can the know about fossil fuels
10 and greenhouse gasses and the global warming
11 and climate change and if (inaudible.) To
12 suggest that our energy path forward requires
13 natural gas and other fossil fuels seems to me
14 an assertion of hopelessness for it is
15 exceptionally clear that continued reliance on
16 fossil fuels, particularly the new fossil fuels
17 which are available only via extreme gassy
18 pollution modes of exchange, is the surest way
19 to ensure that humans fall victim to the longer
20 term impacts of our short-term energy being.
21 It is what my understanding of what some of my
22 fellow citizens were demonstrating today in
23 their comments here as apparently not hatched
24 by the authors of the graft Energy Plan.
25 Enough on climate. Let's talk money. I would

1 like to make a point of which every New York
2 State citizen, regardless of what was -- what
3 he or she may think about fracking, ought to be
4 aware, and that point is that natural gas
5 industry has every intention of building the
6 facilities noted to turn today's natural gas
7 prices into a memory like gasoline pump prices
8 of less than a dollar a gallon. For God's sake
9 if we turn away from fossil fuels and
10 diligently work toward a new central approach
11 to energy, because not doing so is
12 environmental obtuse, let's do it because we
13 don't want to be trapped by an industry who's
14 overriding concern is supporting the people
15 whom finances of the New York State taxpayers
16 is of no concern unless it adversely impacts
17 corporate profits. Thank you for the
18 opportunity to speak.

19 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much. Reana
20 Loeb to be followed by Emily Bishop. Em lee by
21 shop.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. I'm Reana Loeb.
23 And I want to express, first of all, my
24 agreement with most of what has been said here,
25 and well said. Better said than the official

1 document that came out as an Energy Plan. It's
2 disgraceful, you know. I hear people saying
3 thank you for hearing us. I don't know if you
4 remember hearing us. It doesn't seem that way.
5 Are you hearing the scientists who are telling
6 you about the climate change? And it's real,
7 man. And by 2050, if we haven't done something
8 significant, we don't know where we're going to
9 be. Now, I won't be here then, but my
10 great-grandchildren will, and perhaps their
11 children. Do you have any grandchildren,
12 great-grandchildren or just children? If you
13 do, think about them and while you make these
14 decisions. Think about them. This isn't some
15 fantasy. You know they're not all going to
16 escape to us during the Cold War in some
17 underground shelter where we'll all be safe.
18 No. This serves this man at the time as
19 indigenous people. We say our mother. You
20 don't have to adopt that, just follow what your
21 scientists tell you for Heaven's sake. Because
22 it's all one. It's the truth. And I'm asking
23 you if you can't do what is right because of
24 your jobs or your money, stop and think of your
25 children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren

1 and everyone's else. Please. We don't have a
2 lot of time. Thank you.

3 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much. Emily
4 Bishop to be followed by Peter King.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi everyone. Nice to
6 meet you. My name is Emily Bishop and I'm with
7 the New Yorkers against fracking Central New
8 York. I work with most of the people that
9 showed up today. We show up to, you know,
10 rallies, at your doorsteps, you know, we show
11 up in Albany. We do all of these things to
12 make you hear us. And it's been really a
13 pleasure working with everyone here. It's
14 really special and we're building a community.
15 And we've been fighting fracking and we
16 participate and we're here year after year.
17 Before that, when you released the regulations
18 on fracking, and we stopped that, that was us.
19 And that was the work of me and some other
20 people in this room. And that -- it's the
21 public. And we are your connection here,
22 right. Like, we got all these people here
23 today, because I don't remember seeing anything
24 in our newspapers that this was even happening
25 that didn't come from us, so... I believe

1 that's part of a process that of all of us have
2 to be.

3 Anyways, I would like to let you know that
4 I will be 60 in 2050 and you all probably won't
5 be around. And I don't want to be in this room
6 in 2050 talking about the same stuff. I want
7 to be out in my community and I want to be
8 installing solar panels on all these people's
9 homes. I want to stop working against you, I
10 want to start working for renewable energy in
11 plans that help me do that. I would greatly
12 appreciate it. And maybe some way that could
13 happen if NYSERDA actually had some money,
14 instead of putting all these pretty pictures in
15 your plan, that money could go toward hiring
16 community organizers like myself to actually
17 implement these plans, too. Implement
18 renewable energy, to implement solar in
19 Syracuse, for example. That would be really
20 great. I would work with you on that. Also --
21 and you have to include us in this, right,
22 because we are the ones making the decisions
23 for your community. We have banned fracking,
24 we have resisted pipelines, we have solarized
25 communities. We have done things that we want

1 you to do, but we are doing it instead. And
2 this plan doesn't make it any easier for us to
3 do that work. And we would like for the plan
4 to have that included. We want the plan that
5 includes jobs to increase. We want jobs that
6 include technicians and engineers and whoever
7 else is needed to hook up every city to
8 renewable energy. And we would rather much
9 start working on actual solutions and continue
10 fighting something that threatens the health of
11 all of beings, especially our precious water
12 resources. And if we can all get organized to
13 keep fracking out of our state, imagine what
14 we're going to do when you set it up so that we
15 actually implement renewable energy. We're the
16 ones that are going to do that work for you.
17 So if you make it easier for us to do it, than
18 imagine what we can do. If we can keep
19 fracking out of our state, which we're going to
20 keep doing and we're going to keep our energy
21 there until it's banned, you're going to be, at
22 least all of our organizers, ban fracking and
23 instead work toward renewable energy. What do
24 you want? Do you want us to keep trying to ban
25 fracking, would you like all these people all

1 across New York State work on renewable energy?
2 Please, like serious. I don't want to be
3 fighting fracking when I'm 60. I'm 23, you
4 know. I feel bad for all these people sitting
5 in this room that say I've been fighting this
6 for years. And thank God I have them to show
7 me the way because our government isn't doing
8 it, so thank you. Something else I want to
9 talk about is the accessibility for this
10 hearing. And I have some friends that use
11 wheelchairs, I'm very observant of
12 accessibility issues, especially on SUNY
13 campuses, which are not all ADA compliant, mind
14 you. Especially even this building, which is
15 brand new. And the parking lot situation, you
16 know. I mean it's going to be \$15 for me
17 parking here today, and I'm 23 and I have an
18 organizer's position. Like, I don't want to
19 spend 15 dollars to park to participate in a
20 public hearing. That's ridiculous. I also
21 don't want to have to print a lot of color
22 pages so that my community can physically read
23 the Energy Plan document. So if could you,
24 please, this is a specific request, that you
25 could put the document in PDF form without the

1 graphics so we can print it and get it out to
2 our community. And I also think that the
3 accessibility thing violates the open meeting
4 law section 103(b) that states public bodies
5 shall make or cause to be made all reasonable
6 efforts ensure that meetings are held in
7 facilities that permit barrier-free physical
8 access to the physically handicapped as defined
9 in subdivision five of section 50 of the public
10 buildings law. And any parking, even the
11 parking garage that you told us to park in, we
12 called your office several times in the past
13 three weeks, is located downhill making the
14 location inaccessible to the elderly or/and
15 disabled. So it's not like we had enough time
16 to even file that because I read the rules that
17 said we have to file before the meeting
18 happens, but we didn't have enough time to do
19 that. So even though this is an open meeting
20 law, we can't do anything about it. I hope you
21 notice that you're in compliance with the
22 opening meeting law. And thank you for
23 listening. And really I hope that you make the
24 right decision that I can work for you on
25 renewable energy instead of being the doorstep

1 demand banning of fracking. Thank you.

2 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much. Peter
3 King followed by Rosalie Richter.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good afternoon. I'm
5 Peter King. I work on accessibility with
6 transportation in Syracuse with moving people,
7 transportation coalition, but I'm here as a
8 private citizen. I live in Syracuse. I agree
9 with the bulk of the comments so far.
10 Especially those concerning -- regarding
11 natural gas impacts on climate, health and
12 eventual depletion and as well as the nuclear
13 concerns. I find the Energy Plan does
14 acknowledge the effect of this disaster,
15 especially in the urban center. However, as
16 other comments have observed, the vision and
17 basic data here seems lacking. The plan does
18 also acknowledge the climate crisis. However,
19 as many of the speakers have detailed, the plan
20 lacks ambitious and measurable targets. And
21 the current science regarding methane emissions
22 from different kinds of hydraulic fracking, I
23 agree that New York State's plan is cautious
24 regarding the fracking revolution. And,
25 however, as others observed, that the plan

1 fails to integrate public safety with energy
2 planning, especially regarding methane from
3 hydrofracking and nuclear expansion to meet the
4 projected targets. The -- those risks are
5 simply not worth our continued investments. I
6 encourage NYSERDA to tap your networks and
7 connect with the enormous potential for
8 conserving energy and renewables while minding
9 public health. I have emphasized conserving
10 others merely efficiency, and as one example
11 the potential -- there's something called the
12 westernization health initiative on the federal
13 scale. They have done a lot of this
14 country-wide. And what they do is they combine
15 a lot of streamline, a lot of federal aid to
16 lower income residents with who have housing
17 with aid is another concern. And so they --
18 those residents to do one-stop shopping so long
19 as they can remediate it while also insulating
20 their house in one stroke. So the state of New
21 York has engaged in this. We can also greatly
22 reduce dirty energy and greenhouse gas by
23 improving our public transportation. Transit
24 demand is getting increasing for the first time
25 both in New York and national, an the world,

1 actually. Transit can greatly reduce
2 greenhouse gas. And we need revival. You
3 could expand electric motor focus to include
4 public transit as well as in Syracuse, for
5 example. We have a lot of natural gas busses,
6 which probably -- and though I haven't studied
7 this -- have the potential for a lot of leakage
8 which contributes to ozone in an eventual urban
9 situation. Our neighbors in Quebec City have
10 recently converted to 100 percent electric
11 transit, I understand. Electric busses could
12 implement a meaningful and contagious change
13 for clean, open way to get people to work. So
14 I do urge NYSERDA to pursue the energy climate,
15 science and public health and enlist the many
16 citizen groups focusing on these challenges as
17 many people have urged you to do so today.
18 Thank you very much.

19 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much. Rosalie
20 Richter to be followed by Alice Brumbach.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. I'm Rosalie
22 Richter. I'm 70-years-old, retired school
23 (Inaudible) and grandmother of four. I've
24 worked also in hospitals. I have spent many
25 years working in this state and other states in

1 the mid Atlantic and New England. I've had my
2 fingers in environmental issues all these
3 years. I have a son who is a farmer in this
4 state And I feel very strongly about these
5 issues. I've had the privilege of being a war
6 baby and a child of the post-war era. But we
7 have the critical word here is crest. We have
8 private interest energy that is paying a --
9 that for which they're paying a huge price and
10 the time is now to switch gears. Fossil fuels
11 is a dinosaur of our time. It's time to move
12 onto energy sources that are less dangerous to
13 the environment. And we don't need the
14 government supporting the dinosaurs. We need
15 the government supporting moving into a cleaner
16 more technological, enviromental sustainability
17 resources of energy. The plan, the Draft
18 Energy Plan, does state some admirable goals
19 for reducing the climate damage. But, as some
20 people here have pointed out, there are no
21 teeth in this, in this draft. And it has not
22 been informed by the many, many public and
23 scientific responses to the draft for fracking.
24 Legislation has not been informed by the
25 hundreds and thousands of letters for the

1 fracking infrastructure that had been submitted
2 to the state by the citizens here and from all
3 over the state. Cannot believe that this
4 document was put together without considering
5 the mass of citizen comments that's already
6 available to all of you. I would also share my
7 concern about the lack of information about
8 this meeting. I only heard about this meeting
9 days ago. And I have to apologize if my
10 comments are not organized because I haven't
11 had time to put together a response to this.

12 And it was difficult getting here. And there
13 are some people who would like to respond. You
14 have seen in the rallies that there are 2,000,
15 4,000 people who turn up to this. But this is
16 not convenient. And as citizens we have a
17 right to know when a citizen hearing for
18 citizens is being provided. We shouldn't have
19 to work to find it out. It should be in our
20 newspapers. It should be telegraphed to all of
21 us, okay. And, again, look at those
22 regulations, they do not -- the draft plan, it
23 doesn't address major threats to our
24 environment. It leaves out so many. It has
25 omissions, no terms of global concern,

1 financial concerns, state concerns, our local
2 community concerns and our family, our
3 children, our grandchildren. These things are
4 not being addressed. First of all, the major
5 threats of global warming, and this is
6 something that is impacting the globe. I don't
7 think I have to raise the statistics or
8 anything, that's been well done by the people
9 here already today. There's also the threat to
10 our water supply. And I'm not actually talking
11 about just the water supply in our fresh water,
12 but also the oceans. Because we have a huge
13 problem now with the sequestration of CO2 in
14 the oceans, which is using it to acidify and
15 it's already effecting the ability of plants
16 and animals in the oceans to reproduce
17 themselves because of the acidity. And also
18 with such a small portion of the world water
19 pollution threatening resources in this state.
20 Again, the statistics have already been
21 represented. And then there are all the
22 collateral damage through pollution. And I'm
23 not just talking about the pollution, the air
24 pollution, the methane, all those that mix up
25 all the chemicals that's going into the air.

1 But there's -- there's damage to the people who
2 live right next to these things. One previous
3 speaker said that 15 million people who live
4 within one mile of these fracking wells. And
5 we're -- and these -- and this plan would not
6 prevent hundreds and thousands of gas wells in
7 the state. It's the same problem. We know
8 from research what it causes. That the
9 emissions around fracking stations cause birth
10 defects, they cause allergies, they cause --
11 they cause breathing problems and so forth,
12 cancer and increase cancer risks and so forth.
13 There's a great deal of collateral damage. I
14 could go on and on. But that's the thing I
15 want to bring up is that while we've been
16 addressing all these issues with reasonable
17 argument and statistics and scientific
18 information, there's another huge price to pay
19 is that the emotions that people are dealing
20 with. I'm a Midwestern person, I'm optimistic,
21 I'm very stable emotionally, but you can see
22 where I'm at right now. I'm angry. I'm afraid
23 for my children and their grandchildren. I
24 feel a tremendous amount of fear of what
25 happens to the planet and animals on it. I am

1 deeply cynical about the influence of the
2 fossil fuel industry on this process of trying
3 to regulate and manage our energy systems. I
4 have a lot of sorrows. And I think that
5 that -- those feelings are all on the negative
6 side. But I'm telling you, underneath all
7 those is a great deal of love for the planet.
8 And that love that makes me stick to this fight
9 and stand and, if necessary, lie down under
10 some of those tractors and make them stop. I
11 think it's time to put our lives on the ground
12 for this issue. Thank you.

13 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much. Alicia
14 Brumbach followed by Rachel Larson.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I serve as the executive
16 administrator for the New York Biomass Energy
17 Alliance and the board of directors. The New
18 York Biomass Energy Alliance is a coalition of
19 50 individuals, businesses and organizations
20 working together to enhance support,
21 understanding and use of sustainable produced
22 farm and forest biomass as a source of
23 renewable energy. ESF Department of Forest and
24 Natural Resources Management is one of our
25 members. We'll submit our formal comments at a

1 later date.

2 Our sustaining member, Re-energy,
3 headquartered in New York owns and operates
4 biomass to electric generation facilities in
5 four states. Three of their facilities are in
6 New York's north country, the Chateaugay
7 facility in Franklin County, the Black River
8 Facility at Fort Drum facility and the
9 Lyonsdale facility in Lewis County. These
10 three facilities have a combined name plate
11 capacity of 103 megawatts, enough electricity
12 to serve 96,000 homes. When all three
13 facilities are operating, they purchase more
14 than 24 million dollars of sustainable
15 harvested fuel from local suppliers and support
16 more than 500 direct and indirect jobs in
17 northern and Central New York.

18 Our sustaining member, New England Pellet,
19 owns and operates two state-of-the-art wood
20 pellet manufacturing plants in Schuyler and
21 Deposit. The two plants produce 170,000 tons
22 per year of wood pellet fuel, sufficient fuel
23 to heat over 50,000 New York homes and
24 businesses and displace the consumption of
25 nearly 20 million gallons of imported heating

1 oil. New England Wood Pellet employs 40 people
2 directly and indirectly supports over 200
3 additional New York jobs.

4 In the past seven years these two
5 companies have invested more than 95 million
6 dollars in New York. Re-energy and New England
7 Wood Pellet are part of a larger bioenergy
8 industry, including ACT Bioenergy, Mesa
9 Reduction Engineering and Processing, Curran
10 Renewable Energy, and Cogen Power Technologies,
11 among others, that has created and will
12 continue to create permanent jobs and revenues
13 in New York state.

14 We appreciate NYSERDA's recognition that
15 the bioenergy sector is a critical part of the
16 state's energy future. It is an important part
17 of a diverse renewable energy portfolio. It
18 reduces our reliance on fossil fuels, creates
19 jobs, and enhances forest health.

20 Of all renewable energy choices, bioenergy
21 offers the greatest long-term employment and
22 positive rural economic impact. As a rule of
23 thumb, each MW of biopower or biothermal
24 supports almost five full-time jobs. One
25 direct job in the facility and four indirect in

1 surrounding forests and communities. Rural
2 areas of the state are recognizing the economic
3 and enviromental value of biomass derived
4 energy. For example, sustainability plans
5 recently completed in the North Country, Mohawk
6 Valley and Southern Tier all recognize and
7 place a high priority on the use of sustainable
8 sourced biomass for heating homes and
9 businesses, electric generation and combined
10 heat and power.

11 We agree with the draft plan's
12 characterization of bioenergy as possessing
13 some of the highest growth opportunity in the
14 clean energy economy. We further agree with
15 the plan's recommendation to establish smart
16 energy technology hubs involving collaboration
17 between various institutions in the research
18 and development chain.

19 According to the draft plan, gigawatt hour
20 contributions by wood based biomass electricity
21 generators have decreased annually since 2008.
22 The recent contract awarded to Re-Energy's Fort
23 Drum facility under the renewable portfolio
24 standard is likely to increase annual
25 contributions. But continued RPS contracting

1 is critically important for the continued
2 viability of biomass in the electricity
3 generation sector. In order to address this
4 issue, we believe that the state should focus
5 equally on protecting existing resources as it
6 does on encouraging the building of new
7 resources. This approach is more cost
8 effective as well. Existing generation does
9 not face the risks and uncertainties intrinsic
10 to new project development such as permitting
11 and siting.

12 Biomass electricity generators are
13 uniquely vulnerable to the current markets of
14 low wholesale energy pricing. As is the
15 experience with at handful of biopower
16 facilities throughout the state when sufficient
17 RPS revenues do not exist such facilities in
18 the low wholesale market, facilities are
19 shutdown. These facilities need an adequate
20 market through the RPS to monetize the value of
21 renewable attributes. Without continued
22 support of existing facilities, the state's
23 renewable energy goals will not be met.

24 We are heartened that the Public Service
25 Commission is currently considering a petition

1 to chance contracting methods for the main tier
2 of the RPS and to guarantee more certainty in
3 solicitation frequency. In order to ensure the
4 continued viability of existing facilities, we
5 feel that the adopted state Energy Plan should
6 point to measures that herald New York's
7 support of renewable baseload power, such as
8 providing greater incentive-level predicability
9 and project revenue certainty for existing
10 projects in any such program as hallmarks of
11 New York's commission to this industry.

12 The New York Biomass Energy Alliance is
13 also heartened that the draft plan calls for
14 reduced reliance on petroleum products for
15 heating buildings and increased transportation
16 alternatives. However, the draft plan does not
17 adequately address the enormous potential for
18 biomass to help reduce dependence on imported
19 fossil heating such as heating oil and propane.
20 New York homeowners and businesses export
21 \$5 billion of wealth annually by their heavy
22 dependence on these non-renewable fossil fuels.
23 Biomass fuels, such as wood pellets, chips,
24 logwood and bio-based liquid heating fuels can
25 greatly diminish this outflow of wealth and

1 support a strong rural economy. The draft plan
2 does not acknowledge this.

3 In January Govenour Cuomo unveiled his
4 Renewable Heat New York initiative in his
5 State-of the-State address and plan. This high
6 level recognition by New York's chief executive
7 is symbolic of growing awareness of the roll
8 that the biomass can play in helping New
9 Yorkers to heat sustainable and affordable. We
10 eagerly await the completion of NYSERDA's New
11 York biomass heating roadmap which will chart a
12 strategic plan on how to most effectively
13 harness this resource to address heating needs
14 in the state. The plan drafters would do well
15 to review NYSERDA's roadmap when it is released
16 in April. Thank you for the opportunity to
17 come.

18 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much. William
19 Huston followed by Dan Rapaport.

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi there. My name is
21 William Huston. I live in Broome County and
22 the heart of the sacrifice zone of fracking.
23 So I just picked up on one statement that
24 somebody previously stated, and that's glaring
25 omissions. I agree with that. The two glaring

1 omissions that I can see also embodied in your
2 implicit also call for more natural gas
3 infrastructure. I also want to echo the
4 comments that call this natural gas is really a
5 misnomer. If we have to smash rock a mile
6 under ground that way (indicating) in order to
7 get the stuff, with high explosives, HDE is
8 like one of highest explosives known to man,
9 it's tipped with depleted uranium in the
10 hydrofracking, that's not a natural process.
11 That's an extreme process. What you're calling
12 for is extreme energy. And it's a lot more
13 unnatural than I think wind and solar. I think
14 that that's been said today. I also want to
15 briefly just comment about accessibility. You
16 have heard that a little bit today. I had to
17 walk a mile carrying about 40 pounds worth of
18 equipment. And I'm like kind of an old guy, so
19 I do live a sedentary life. Maybe I just
20 needed the workout. You know, that's probably
21 okay. I have a big problem with the
22 accessibility of this hearing. I go to a lot
23 of hearings and I haven't had to walk a mile in
24 a long time. Public transportation is one of
25 the glaring omissions. And I want to ask you

1 to look at that because this is a big switch in
2 the first part of the earlier part of the 20th
3 century. Where, in fact, you can even Google
4 this. It was a conspiracy between General
5 Motors and Firestone to actually buy up the
6 light rail, you know, the town where
7 Binghamton, New York where I've lived for about
8 the last 15 years. There's still evidence of
9 trolley tracks on certain roads in my hometown
10 in New Jersey, trolley tracks paved over. We've
11 ripped out, you know, it's -- that makes the
12 United States less sustainable than, you know,
13 some of the most, you know, rural third-world
14 areas in Europe. So we're really backwards by
15 ripping out light rail. Two glaring omissions,
16 peak oil and global warming. Let's talk about
17 that briefly. If we get to five degrees C -- I
18 hope you're all taking notes and not like just
19 writing a grocery list there. If we get to
20 five degrees C, there are certain feedback
21 loops that happen in the environment that can
22 actually bump it up to ten degrees C. At ten
23 degrees C mass extinction. 95 percent of all
24 living beings gone. This is in the geologic
25 record. So we are -- we are really at a crisis

1 movement. We need radical action from you all.
2 And what we're seeing is more reliance on
3 fracked gas, and it's really not acceptable.
4 And like others have said, when mass extinction
5 is on the horizon. There are a lot of people
6 here, and I'm one of them, that will put our
7 bodies on the line in order to protect present
8 life and future generations. And I live down
9 wind and down stream of fracked gas wells in my
10 water shed. Fracking is prohibited in the
11 proposed New York regulations in the New York
12 water shed with a four thousand foot setback.
13 I have -- I have 96 fracked wells in the middle
14 of my water shed, my upstream water source
15 right now. There are 400,000 New Yorkers that
16 are downwind and downstream of hydrofracking
17 operations in Pennsylvania. And this gas and
18 these infrastructure projects that you're
19 proposing is only going to -- I've seen the
20 devastation in Pennsylvania. And you should
21 come and see it for yourselves. Come to
22 Bradford County where my family is from. Come
23 to Susquehanna County and just see what it's
24 like. So, please take this back. Have
25 additional public hearings with greater

1 accessibility to give us more time to analyze
2 this and study this. And we want a true
3 renewable future for New York. Thank you.

4 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much. Craig
5 Lazzar.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello members of the
7 planning board. My name is Craig Lazzar and
8 I'm a graduate student working towards a master
9 of professional studies degree from the
10 environmental studies department here at ESF.
11 I earned my bachelor of science degree here at
12 ESf in 2008. In April of 2008 I was awarded
13 the title of renewable energy scholar by a
14 national campaign called Presidential Forum on
15 Renewable Energy.

16 As a child growing up in Central New York
17 I suffered from asthma attacks. And I know of
18 the hardships and worries that living with
19 asthma imposes on families. Empirical evidence
20 shows a strong correlation between fossil fuel
21 emissions from electrical power plants and
22 asthma and other respiratory ailments for the
23 young and old. The Draft Energy Plan
24 acknowledges these impacts and even highlights
25 the magnified impact that air quality has for

1 residents of New York City, yet the Draft
2 Energy Plan dedicates New York State to the
3 same old dirty energy technologies.

4 We have power sources available to us
5 right now that don't burden the public and
6 government with compound, chronic healthcare
7 costs associated with breathing air containing
8 fossil fuel power plant emissions. Healthcare
9 costs associated with fossil fuels are a burden
10 to the public and are a free, implicit subsidy
11 to fossil fuel businesses. There is no
12 regulatory structure to address this tragedy of
13 the commons and we all suffer for it with every
14 breath. Not only do we desperately need steep
15 investments in renewable, low carbon energy,
16 but we need to stop allowing fossil fuel
17 companies to socialize the negative impacts of
18 their business model. We need to end actual,
19 legal and clearly unnecessary subsidies to the
20 most profitable corporations to ever exist on
21 earth. Part of that struggle is going to
22 include an investment and development package
23 for renewable energy that matches the
24 preferential treatment that has historically
25 gone to fossil fuel projects. This will begin

1 to introduce competition in the energy
2 marketplace. Competition which has been absent
3 for far too long harming the health and
4 development not only of New York but the
5 nation.

6 New York has not only the capability but a
7 responsibility to lead the nation towards
8 renewable energy. Over 60 percent of our
9 electricity already comes from low-carbon
10 sources. For New York, carbon neutrality or
11 even carbon capture s low-hanging fruit. An
12 80 percent reduction target by 2050 is an
13 embarrassingly inadequate goal. I'll be 65 and
14 hopefully retired by then. I think it's safe
15 to say that the members of the planning board
16 are -- with maybe one or two exceptions -- are
17 unlikely to ever see the fruits of such a plan.
18 By 2050 it will be too late to do anything at
19 all about climate catastrophe.

20 As the home of one of the world's most
21 important global cities, New York has a lower
22 opportunity cost and higher profile for
23 developing and demonstrating the benefits of
24 renewable low-carbon energy. The prosperity of
25 every New Yorker is harmed by this failure to

1 jump at the opportunity for immediate and deep
2 investments in wind and biomass power over the
3 next decade. We need to be far more proactive
4 than this to even begin to address any of the
5 problems that are mentioned in the very last
6 pages of the plan under the heading Impacts and
7 Considerations. This last section of the plan
8 is almost entirely a self-referential
9 indictment of everything that comes before it.

10 I have several professors that would no doubt
11 fail me for presenting such a
12 self-contradictory product as a class project,
13 and they would be right to do so.

14 Most dismaying is that the Energy Planning
15 Board has underutilized the resources available
16 within New York State in drafting this plan.

17 And that is a shame. Just in Central New York
18 we have the nation's oldest environmental
19 science university, ESF; the new Golisano

20 Institute for Sustainability at the Rochester
21 Institute of Technology; and Cornell University
22 and Cornell Cooperative Extension, just to name
23 a few. It would be difficult, if not
24 impossible, to point to any other state in the
25 union and find such a unique and robust

1 collection of environmental scientists and
2 wisdom as New York State has. And it's a shame
3 that this expertise is not explicitly
4 celebrated and utilized in the 2014 Energy
5 Plan.

6 New York has a technical and policy
7 development expertise within its own borders to
8 lead the nation away from carbon intensive and
9 increasingly destructive fossil fuel power.
10 Right here at ESF there are pioneering and
11 innovative solutions to harnessing energy from
12 woody biomass. This is known colloquially as
13 the Woody Biomass Program which concentrates on
14 the cultivation of shrub willow due to its
15 incredible inability to filter waste on
16 marginal soils while maximizing harvestable
17 biomass. ESF scientists have developed methods
18 that promise higher energy returns than what we
19 get when compared to a fossil fuel energy
20 life-cycle costs. There is strong evidence
21 that, however, that though biomass technology
22 has its own unique limitations, just like
23 fossil fuels do, it promises more value to New
24 Yorkers. It promises us a better value in jobs
25 and health and a cleaner environment and a

1 greater economy. It promises more adaptable
2 infrastructure capable of merging with the
3 existing grid without the enormous upfront
4 investments required to expand natural gas
5 infrastructure.

6 Wind power, likewise, offers New York the
7 opportunity to address many ongoing energy
8 issues. We need to double, and better yet,
9 triple investments in renewable wind energy
10 over the next five years. Offshore wind offers
11 especially attractive aspects for New York City
12 by investing in the ability to harness the
13 power of offshore wind. New York City could
14 circumvent the electrical bottleneck that
15 exists in trying to move upstate energy to Long
16 Island. The installation of offshore wind at
17 suitable sites near New York City could reduce
18 energy prices in the city, and even across the
19 state, as the demand for energy is from upstate
20 is reduced by offshore wind energy. All of New
21 York would gain prosperity through cheaper
22 energy. Wind turbines last for 20 to 30 years.
23 Gas pipelines last longer but absolutely commit
24 us to an already overexploited and chaotic
25 natural gas marketplace where costs are only

1 likely to go up and fluctuate more severely.

2 MidAmerican Energy just announced that the
3 State of Iowa approved a groundbreaking in
4 November on a 500 megawatt wind farm. The
5 largest single site in Iowa history. It calls
6 for 218 wind turbines spread out over 70,000
7 acres. Dubbed the Highland Wind Energy
8 Project, it's part of a 1.9 billion dollar
9 expansion of Iowa's wind generating capacity.
10 They plan to have the project completed by
11 2015. Not 2050. The one billion dollar green
12 bank and 2050 carbon reduction target that is
13 created in the draft of the New York Energy
14 Plan is frankly, unfortunately, pitiful
15 compared to Iowa's investment in infrastructure
16 alone. I think that if Iowa can do it, then we
17 can definitely do it. We have no excuses left.
18 It might be a challenge to put a stock price on
19 wind resources or shrub willow, at least at
20 first, but the dividends paid back to New York
21 through investments in a low carbon green
22 economy and updated energy grid are real and
23 they're waiting for us if we only reach out to
24 seize the opportunity. Thank you.

25 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much.

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you for your time.
2 I used to be one of those folks that was --
3 wanted to go to meetings. I wanted to go to
4 public meetings. I graduated with a planning
5 degree. I went out into the world and I got my
6 hundred thousand dollar grant for bicycle and
7 intermode transportation. And it was funded
8 improperly and I could never sign my name again
9 on another grant from the federal government.
10 For me, personally, I wouldn't do it because my
11 grandfather set the tracks for honesty in
12 business. He was a senior agriculture advisor
13 to the White House. I'm embarrassed for
14 myself. I embarrassed for what has happened.
15 I have worked in mergers and acquisitions. I'm
16 not going to reiterate what everyone said.
17 Fact is, these guys have billions of dollars to
18 waste. And you know we've got a moratorium and
19 we're fleecing them. We're fleecing these
20 companies because we're not -- I don't see it
21 happening. How could -- with all this. How
22 could we not be fleecing these companies.
23 Sure, we'll maybe do it. We'll maybe do it.
24 Oil and gas, we'll -- when you got one propane
25 cuy saying I'm improvished with propane, we ned

1 it now. Freeing cold trailer parks. And I'm
2 embarrassed to say I've done the research.

3 That's -- the majority has not been heard. I
4 don't know. I mean I bowed out of this. I
5 tried to bow out of the -- this fully. And the
6 next thing you know I was surrounded by a SWAT
7 team and called an terrorist. So I have to lay
8 low. But I told you my experiences in the
9 mergers and acquisitions from 2008 and onward.
10 I know what it's like to have Chesapeake Bay
11 come up here and say we are going to quadrant
12 off an area to get these people to -- simply
13 these people do it and we're getting \$5,000
14 commission a lease to do it. So thank you.

15 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much. Renee
16 Vogelsang followed by Carol Chock.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. I have a couple
18 difference statements to read. I hope to get
19 it in five minutes. My name is Renee
20 Vogelsang. I'm with the organization New
21 Yorkers Against Fracking. I'm actually from
22 the Syracuse, New York region, currently living
23 here in Syracuse, New York. I was going to red
24 a statement from Jean Kessner,
25 Councilor-at-Large for the City of Syracuse.

1 she couldn't get here because she couldn't find
2 a parking spot and she has trouble walking up
3 here and she was here on a lunch break, so she
4 was extremely disappointed that she couldn't
5 make it up here. I would like to reiterate
6 that the accessibility of this location was
7 extremely poor, the parking was extremely poor.
8 As community organizers we host events that
9 have parking lots right next to other events
10 and handicapped accessibility and so on so that
11 people can come and participate. I just want
12 to reiterate about that. But her statement
13 goes as far as -- and I'm here speaking on
14 behalf of and I will read. "I am Jean Kessner,
15 Councilor-at-Large for City of Syracuse. I'm
16 here today speaking on behalf of elected
17 officials from every county in New York State
18 who are united in advocating to continue the
19 moratorium on fracking until and unless health
20 studies prove that fracking will not be harmful
21 to human or environmental health. EOPNY will
22 file a longer statement separately to further
23 explain EOPNY's view of the state energy plan
24 which, in a word, we find lacking.

25 While setting forth and admirable goal of

1 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gasses from
2 1990 levels by 2050, the plan lacks a strong
3 roadmap for how we get there. It sets no
4 benchmarks or clear steps. Inexplicably, the
5 plan forecasts only anemic growth in renewable
6 energy sources and instead promotes the
7 widespread expansion of natural gas. It
8 actually describes natural gas as a, quote,
9 "Clean fuel." Natural gas is a fossil fuel.
10 Burning it contributes to climate change.

11 Clean fuels are renewable, like wind,
12 hydro and solar. According to this plan's own
13 documentation, New York State more than doubled
14 power generation from wind and solar between
15 1990 and 2012. That is a far bigger gain than
16 from any other power source. Although there
17 are some good initiatives in the plan relating
18 to renewables, we need more specific and more
19 significant commitments to expanding the role
20 for renewable.

21 Contrary to this, unfortunately the plan
22 predicts that natural gas production in New
23 York State will triple by 2030, intimating that
24 New York's moratorium on fracking will be
25 lifted. It indicated that production may well

1 be even greater in the state if permitting
2 difficulties are reduced. Further, the plan
3 promotes increased infrastructure for gas
4 transmission and distribution, a misguided use
5 of our state's resources and investments.

6 Fracking is not clean. A significant and
7 rapidly growing body of science shows that
8 fracking poisons water, air, land and
9 contributes to climate change. It releases
10 methane, a potent greenhouse gas, which brings
11 me to my next point.

12 Just what are our goals here? Again, the
13 plan reaffirms New York's goal of reducing
14 total greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent from
15 1990 levels by 2050. Yet this plan only
16 commits to measuring one greenhouse gas, carbon
17 dioxide, before 230. This ignores methane
18 which is 34 times more potent greenhouse gas
19 over 100 years and 86 times more so over 20
20 years. Significant amounts of methane are
21 leaked during the gas drilling and fracking
22 process and transporting natural gas.

23 New York needs a plan that charts a course
24 for the future, that sets aggressive targets
25 for production of renewable energy and for

1 greater energy efficiencies economy wide. A
2 plan that tightens building codes and ups
3 standards on appliances and aggressively
4 enforces the rules. We need to set our sites
5 high and lead the nation away from its
6 dependence on fossil fuels. This will set us
7 on a brighter and healthier path for the future
8 and it will create for more jobs than continued
9 reliance on dirty fossil fuels. And thank you,
10 Jean Kessner on behalf of EOPNY. Once again,
11 over eight hundreds elected officials in the
12 state.

13 MR. RHODES: Sorry?

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Jean Kessner. J-e-a-n
15 K-e-s-s-n-e-r.

16 MR. RHODES: Thank you.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: So I want to just read
18 my own personal statement, so I hope that is
19 allowed.

20 MR. RHODES: It's not a problem, we
21 understand.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: So, once again, my name
23 is Renee Vogelsang. I work with New Yorkers
24 Against Fracking and Frack Action. I'm from
25 Camillus and I live in Syracuse, New York. I

1 don't want to reiterate too much. You know,
2 we're against the gas infrastructure bill in
3 New York. We're against gas production in New
4 York, importation of gas into New York due to
5 the effects of methane on our climate. And we
6 want the government to take bold steps in
7 renewable energy. But we're -- you know what I
8 want to say right is natural gas is a
9 transition fuel monitor that's been
10 manufactured by the gas industry who has a
11 monetary relationship with the present
12 administration and the mainstream media. We
13 can't afford to look away to the fact and
14 science and the personal stories of people
15 suffering from natural gas fracking and
16 transportation across the country. Those who
17 work at the head of the gas industry will only
18 think about their timeline and don't care what
19 consequences are being made or are in total
20 denial. As leaders we're calling on you to do
21 your job and lead. Something my colleague
22 Julia Walsh, who is here and has lived through
23 her work, is that it takes a village to raise a
24 nation. And that's exactly where we are in New
25 York. It's going to take New York State to

1 raise this entire nation. I understand that we
2 need the politics for renewable energy. I'm
3 telling you today that we are working on it,
4 but we need you to meet us halfway. We can't
5 do it without you just as you can't do it
6 without us. And, finally, I would like to say
7 that we need the heart for human lives and
8 planetary survival back in our government and
9 in our community leaders. I'm calling on every
10 young person, female person, male person, all
11 other persons who actually care about our
12 survival, to run for office and other
13 leadership positions. Because of this planning
14 board, if this administration is not willing to
15 do the right thing, than we're going to do the
16 right thing.

17 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much. Carol
18 Chock to be followed by Thomas Starkey.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm Carol Chock, a
20 legislature from Tompkins County where I
21 represent 7,550 constituents in District 3
22 mayor election term residential areas adjacent
23 to Cornell University. I chair the planning
24 energy and environmental quality committee
25 where we are actively involved in

1 multi-projects to reduce greenhouse gas
2 emissions in our county, encourage production
3 and build energy efficient housing and former
4 chair the facilities and infrastructure where
5 we built lead equivalent facilities, install
6 solar (inaudible.) I'm also voice chair of our
7 economic develop committee where we look at
8 economic impact of energy decisions. Thursday
9 night the Tompkins County Legislature passed
10 this resolution providing comments and
11 recommending important revisions to the 2014
12 Draft New York State Energy Plan. It came out
13 of the bipartisan committee. Passed the
14 legislature ten to four with the only
15 difference of opinion on our legislature
16 percentage by which methane CH₄ is responsible
17 for greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to
18 climate change and CO₂. So we were unanimous
19 in most of what we passed. We all agree we'll
20 not be able to achieve our own over New York
21 State's target in greenhouse gas reduction on
22 the current course. We were unanimous that New
23 York State must get serious about finding
24 another path. Point of agreement, 80 by '50
25 target. 80 percent I think by 2050 as a target

1 is a good idea. All carbon equivalent must --
2 we must change methane and other emissions as
3 well as set the bar for our regulations.
4 Please see the recent research from Cornell
5 University and other places, Jacobson, Jackson
6 Morris who wrote about -- who is here who wrote
7 about New York renewable standards and what was
8 cited in our regulations. There must be
9 interim targets. A resolution point that New
10 York State requires us, when we apply for
11 grants, to have an achievable target when we
12 receive funding. For example, for New York
13 State, only a cleaner, greater community plan.
14 But it didn't include such targets for itself.
15 The name plan for this document says is
16 regulations is pretty much a misnomer. We say
17 it more politely in the resolution. While it
18 establishes some admirable goals and makes some
19 predictions based upon a continuation of
20 business as it has been, it is not a new plan
21 in the modern sense of words in which future
22 direction is set and alternative directions are
23 made that would depend upon implementation of
24 the new set of initiatives. Our resolution
25 calls for a final plan that would be worthy of

1 that name. Tompkins County is not alone in
2 deciding that energy policies are worthy of our
3 time. Elected officials at all levels and in
4 our municipalities and in other counties across
5 New York State are looking at not only fracking
6 but wide energy decisions. Tompkins County
7 council definitely has a sustainability energy
8 task force. There's now elected officials net
9 worth consisting of 800 and some elected
10 officials at levels throughout the state. 200
11 municipalities have rewritten the plan using
12 control thinking about energy use and looking
13 at that energy decision effect not only our
14 energy but our economics. Bipartisan elected
15 officials study policies, institute clean
16 energy programs on local levels. And emissions
17 market concludes that fossil fuels, including
18 natural gas infrastructure, are not good for
19 our economy. Like the numbers don't work.
20 Damage from an extreme storm cost us in
21 Tompkins County over 500,000 this year. And if
22 you count the recent salt and storms, I think
23 we're probably getting closer to a million
24 probably. Tax income doesn't cover increase
25 set costs for public safety for some of the

1 things that we're talking about. Services, it
2 doesn't cover the cost for additional services
3 for public health, ensure public health in our
4 community. We face uncertainty and pricing.
5 We just encourage you to read our resolution
6 and create a final plan in the spirit in which
7 planning has been taken into consideration in
8 this great State of New York. Thank you.

9 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much. Thomas
10 Starkey followed by Jackson Morris.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good afternoon. My name
12 is Thomas Starkey and I'm a junior here at ESF.
13 I believe that the New York State Draft Energy
14 Plan has the potential to be a great document.
15 It could put the state on the right track to
16 lead the right energy development, and it
17 could. Due to the underlying motifs of the
18 plan, it could be less conflicting. Makes it
19 hard to determine an appropriate middle ground
20 for everyone that everyone will agree upon,
21 especially when it comes to the upcoming role
22 of natural gas. According to the EPA pound for
23 pound the comparative impact of methane on
24 climate change is over 20 times greater than
25 you carbon dioxide over a hundred year period.

1 If we release carbon emissions by increased
2 carbon methane, we'll be back to square one of
3 the fastest way to increase natural gas
4 consumption for New York would be through
5 hydrofracking. The long-term negative and
6 environmental consequence of hydrofracking far
7 outweighs the short-term economic advancement.
8 30 percent of methane emissions come from
9 natural gas and petroleum. That is the result
10 of this process. Look at Onondaga Lake.
11 That's a -- that's a federal funded toxic waste
12 site. New York has so much clean water
13 available. We don't want to have to be going
14 through the same process of cleaning up our
15 mistakes from this path in the future. These
16 emissions will only get into the future and
17 they will still be confronting the same
18 environmental issues we have today further down
19 the road. Let's make the right decision and
20 ban hydrofracking. Thank you.

21 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much. Jackson
22 Morris followed by Kim Michaels.

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm showing my age that
24 I'm not reading off my phone, I have paper.
25 Good afternoon. My name is Jackson Morris.

1 I'm a senior energy and climate analyst at the
2 Natural Resources Defense Council, an
3 international nonprofit environmental
4 organization with our headquarters here in New
5 York State. NRDC has more than 1.4 million
6 members and online activists, including more
7 than 110,000 in New York State. Since our
8 founding in New York 1970, our lawyers,
9 scientists and other environmental specialists
10 have worked to protect the world's natural
11 resources, public health and the environment.
12 NRDC's top institutional priority is curbing
13 global warming and building the clean energy
14 future.

15 For two decades NRDC has worked to scale
16 up renewable energy and energy efficiency in
17 New York State as the key strategy for fighting
18 global warming, protecting public health,
19 lowering New Yorker's energy bills and creating
20 jobs. As the result of efforts by many
21 stakeholders and policies adopted by the state,
22 New York has scaled up its clean energy efforts
23 considerably. A decade ago New York had just
24 48 megawatts of wind power, today, after a
25 decade of our successful renewable portfolio

1 standard program, we have a 1.8 gigawatts of
2 wine. More than 37 times more than we had with
3 some of the largest projects located right here
4 in Central New York. Just four years ago New
5 York had minimal amounts of solar power
6 installed. Today, after the first phase of New
7 York Sun Program, not counting the many
8 installations that occurred in 2013, we have
9 nearly 200 megawatts and are finally in the top
10 ten states for installed solar. And yet we
11 have far to go before we realize our full
12 potential for clean energy in New York State.
13 And the aftermath of Hurricanes Irene and Lee
14 and Superstorm Sandy, we understand more
15 clearly than ever how high the stakes are in
16 the struggle to move away from fossil fuels to
17 clean energy. So the conversations that we are
18 having through the State Energy Plan process
19 are crucially important as will be policies
20 that New York State adopts moving forward.

21 I appreciate the opportunity to comment on
22 the 2014 New York State Draft Energy Plan
23 today. My testimony is broken between four
24 parts. At the outset, we would like to thank
25 NYSERDA for their efforts to produce a solid

1 draft plan that synthesizes a lot of useful
2 information about New York's current and
3 projected energy mix and includes some
4 thoughtful recommendations. However, moving
5 forward, we urge New York State to include more
6 explicit comments to specific clean energy
7 goals and policies. These will be needed to
8 meet our emissions reduction, clean energy and
9 environmental and public health goals. In
10 particular we strongly urge that the final plan
11 include a 2030 modeling run that captures a
12 vast energy efficiency and the renewable energy
13 potential the draft itself references. A full
14 43 percent of electric demand from energy and
15 comparable numbers from renewables. Doing so
16 results in a starkly different energy mix than
17 currently projected.

18 One: The draft plan includes a laudable
19 long-term emissions target. An 80 percent
20 reduction in greenhouse gases by 2050 but needs
21 interim goals/mile markers to ensure we get
22 there.

23 New York should establish near and
24 mid-term targets for 2018 and 2021 to help
25 achieve the year-over-year economy-wide

1 greenhouse gas to meet Govenour Cuomo's
2 long-term goals. For example, a 2018 target of
3 a 14 percent reduction from 2011 levels and
4 20 percent by 2021 would ensure the state is on
5 the appropriate glide path to reach the 80 by
6 '50 goal.

7 In addition, targets should be based on
8 actual carbon dioxide equivalent reductions,
9 not carbon intensity as stated on Page 28 of
10 Volume One. Instead, goals must be set in
11 terms of actual tonnage reductions of CO2
12 equivalent to provide an accurate measurement
13 of policy performance.

14 And carbon should be clarified to refer to
15 CO2 equivalent. Other greenhouse gases such as
16 methane are significantly more potent than
17 carbon from a climate forcing perspective over
18 shorter time periods. And the prevailing
19 science has illustrated that a comprehensive
20 approach to greenhouse gas reductions is
21 necessary to mitigate climate change. Thus, we
22 recommend that the final plan incorporates that
23 change in order to ensure adequate attention is
24 paid to mitigating those high impact greenhouse
25 gases in addition to carbon dioxide.

1 Two: Extending and expanding programs for
2 clean renewable energy efficiency will play a
3 central role in meeting these ambitious but
4 achievable greenhouse gas goals.

5 Energy efficiency in the draft plan
6 includes a state commitment through 2020 to
7 energy efficiency programs, which are currently
8 set to expire in 2015. While this time horizon
9 is essential to ensuring certainty for
10 utilities, building owners, contractors to
11 invest in energy efficiency, this commitment
12 must be coupled with targets and dollar budgets
13 to capture all cost effective energy
14 efficiency. Based on historical performance
15 and various analyses, a goal of meeting roughly
16 20 percent of forecasted demand in 2025 through
17 energy efficiency, should be included in the
18 final plan along with comparable programs
19 targeting end use natural gas efficiency.
20 Programs should also be designed to target
21 sectors such as affordable multi-family housing
22 that have traditionally been undeserved and
23 represents a vast reservoir of cost-effective
24 efficiency, a sector in which the value
25 proposition for energy savings is heightened

1 low-income families can spend up to 20 percent
2 on their income on energy, compared with only
3 four percent for the average household.

4 Building codes and state appliance
5 efficiency standards must be updated more
6 regularly as well as aggressively enforced.
7 For so long this area has suffered from lack of
8 funding and political will to follow through on
9 stated commitments. As buildings account for
10 the lion's share of energy demand in the state,
11 72 percent of primary energy use in 2012,
12 strengthening codes and standards will spur
13 economic growth by reducing overall energy
14 expenditures, create jobs and reduce emissions.
15 The final plan must build on the draft's
16 mention of standards as a priority by including
17 more specific action items and metrics to
18 ensure the state follows through on that
19 commitment. Specifically, the codes council
20 process for adopting 2012 IECC/ASHRAE 90.1-2010
21 for both residential and commercial buildings
22 has slipped repeatedly and should be a top
23 priority for the administration to complete.
24 We also urge full participation by the state in
25 the EIC model code setting process, including

1 attendance at key IECC meetings. Finally, the
2 state should also be active in promoting
3 stronger energy efficiency standards at the
4 federal level as these will result in
5 substantial additional energy savings.

6 Renewable energy. The final plan must
7 scale up renewable energy. As with energy
8 efficiency, the draft plan includes a state
9 commitment through 2025 to a renewable energy
10 portfolio. While this -- sorry. While this is
11 positive, the final plan should direct the PSC
12 to issue an order by the year end 2014 that
13 targets meeting half of the state's electricity
14 demand with renewable energy in 2025. Further,
15 many customers who pay into the RPS are unable
16 to site solar, wind or other renewable
17 technologies where they live or work due to
18 infrastructure constraints. To address this
19 barrier, the final plan should include a
20 directive to pursue the regulatory and/or
21 legislative changes necessary to allow
22 customers to aggregate their demand and
23 subscribe to an off-sight renewable project
24 that would offset a portion of their demand
25 from the grid that is already being implemented

1 in states such as Colorado.

2 Franking. NRDC is pleased that the state
3 energy plan appears not to contemplate new
4 high-volume hydraulic fracturing within New
5 York State. NRDC remains opposed to any new
6 fracking New York until the potential risks to
7 human health and the environment have been
8 fully evaluated. Given that important new
9 science continues to be advanced, particularly
10 with respect to health impacts, we support an
11 on-going de facto moratorium on fracking in the
12 state.

13 In the meantime we are aware that the
14 state's continued and projected increased
15 consumption of natural gas from other locations
16 results in serious impacts in those places.
17 Although NRDC and others continue to work to
18 ensure that the most protective safeguards are
19 put in place wherever fracking occurs, our top
20 priority must be to move beyond fossil fuels as
21 rapidly as possible. Consistent with other
22 recommendations made in this testimony, NRDC
23 therefore urges the state to take aggressive
24 measures to reduce our dependence on all fossil
25 fuels, including natural gas, and to ramp up

1 the use of energy efficiency and renewable
2 energy as quickly as possible.

3 New York should pursue transportation
4 sector greenhouse gas reductions. In 2012 the
5 transportation sector accounted for 28 percent
6 of New York's primary energy use and has
7 persistently been the fastest growing sector
8 year-over-year. New York should build on its
9 Charge New York initiative to continue
10 investing in electric vehicle infrastructure,
11 make the necessary regulatory changes at the
12 PSC to remove barriers and create incentives
13 and education programs to accelerate EV
14 adoption.

15 The governor must also ensure New York
16 plays a lead role in fulfilling the recently
17 signed state zero emission MOU and explores
18 mechanisms that can track the carbon intensity
19 of the state's liquid fuels, which are on a
20 path to get dirtier as tar sands-derived fuels
21 potentially enter the state's market.

22 There should also be additional goals and
23 implementation details about the proposed
24 initiatives on increasing transportation system
25 and location efficiency and coordinated

1 infrastructure investment through integrated
2 energy, transportation, land use and
3 sustainability planning, all of which will
4 yield reduced emissions, reduced transportation
5 costs, greater economic growth and a higher
6 quality of life for New York's residents.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Kim Michaels.

10 MR. RHODES: Hold on. So the following
11 person will be Tyler Cook.

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm sorry.

13 MR. RHODES: I'm just naming the person
14 who follows you.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I've heard a lot of
16 comments today and it seems that people are
17 seeing this as either natural gas or clean
18 green renewable energy. My issue with this
19 whole deal is that they both come out of the
20 same hole and they both involve nuclear energy
21 and radiation as found in our shales. Our
22 shale contains natural gas, shale oil, high
23 conservation of rare earth which is used for
24 clean renewable energy, so-called clean
25 renewable energy, of which residents suffered

1 horrendous health and environmental
2 degradation. They have cancer villages, issues
3 with skyrocketing birth defects. This has
4 been -- there's been a huge attempt on the part
5 of China in keeping this covered up. And one
6 particular story that I had heard about was a
7 journalist in China, and they were providing
8 them with private email information, he ended
9 up getting nailed for it. But, you know, and
10 he was, I think, I believe settled out of
11 court. 107 of these people ended up with ten
12 year jail sentences. It -- it's just one thing
13 I wanted to mention. But I'm asking all of
14 you, if you hold the United States up to the
15 same standards as we've held other countries,
16 this would require that you put on hold not
17 only this energy plan but the entire budget
18 recent amendment and recent changes as far as
19 law that's put into effect. Because all of it,
20 not even just so much of it, all of it pertains
21 to mining issues. In mining -- in mining, for
22 the rare earth, they all, in addition to the
23 fact that they're totally interlinked, which
24 radioactive material which has -- and they have
25 to be separated from each other. They use

1 intense heat, extreme toxic gases. In
2 addition, more recently, they have begun
3 creating organisms. Microorganisms are to be
4 created to withstand intense extremes in heat,
5 temperature, radiation, toxic heavy metal,
6 toxic gasses. All of the things that we would
7 typically use to destroy harmful bacteria. The
8 magnitude of this, I can't even describe.
9 Because if something like this got out into the
10 environment, and I fear it may already have, it
11 would be uncontrollable. You would sit here
12 and picture an ordinary invasive species of a
13 plant or animal that you can actually see and
14 think of how far different it is to eradicate
15 something like that. And in this situation
16 you're trying -- you're trying with something
17 that is so small, you can't even see it. Some
18 of this is difficult to see if even with a
19 microscope. And those bacteria, it's actually
20 bacteria, yeast, mold, fungi, all of which have
21 the ability to reproduce repeatedly, to evolve
22 rapidly and also to transfer their genetics
23 into other microorganisms. They can destroy
24 existing microorganisms in our environment.
25 And they can also just overtake it. The human

1 body has more microbe cells, they have a major
2 role in every form of life. Just to give you
3 some idea of the issues that we're dealing
4 with.

5 Now I will go with to the plan. There are
6 great men in our history who fear for
7 American's future, all of them due to radiation
8 and nuclear power. Between them, the
9 additional grave concern due to cover-ups
10 threaten alliance between government business
11 and (inaudible.) Those men are Albert Einstein
12 who is the greatest genius of all time. Dr.
13 Carl J. Morgan, known as the father of nuclear
14 health physics, an admiral and the father of
15 nuclear Navy, it is my concern that our
16 governor and president, with the help of
17 others, have effectively declared an unofficial
18 war on their own people. A war involving
19 economic, psychological and biological chemical
20 radioactive war and to slide into fascism. The
21 same thing is happening in other country to
22 create a world government which would
23 effectively ensure fear. The same resources an
24 technology used to create the damage would also
25 be used to mitigate it by the same group of

1 businessmen with political clout. No, sir,
2 this needs to be opposed, the energy plan in
3 its entirety and all recent changes, or at
4 least put on hold while my claims are
5 investigated. Such a request may seem
6 extraordinary, but upholding this request is
7 not only reasonable but imperative. If the
8 people in our state and our country, as well as
9 the people of other countries, are to be
10 protecting a group of treasonous,
11 internationals with political clout by danger
12 will more actually and comparison this group
13 (Inaudible) of unprecedented mining reliefs
14 after use of high radioactive and toxic
15 material as found in the shales and mitigate
16 genetic microorganisms and be able to alter and
17 engineer a climate and geological event --

18 MR. RHODES: Ma'am, I'm sorry, you have
19 gone over your time. If it's written comments,
20 you can --

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: The other person before
22 me spoke for quite a little longer, I believe.
23 Well, I would like to say is that the people
24 that the -- did that, the investigation, that
25 the investigation include Govenour Cuomo,

1 President Obama, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., and as
2 it appears the UN discharged, and his
3 associates with an advantage point now known as
4 advantage point capitol partners, James C.
5 Kennedy, Al Gore and Major General Charles R.
6 Henry who seems to be the one benefiting the
7 most. It's involvement with the national
8 venture business corporation deserves some
9 attention. I think it's unfortunate that you
10 don't want to hear the rest. I mean if you
11 truly want to make a good --

12 MR. RHODES: Ma'am, we have other
13 speakers.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Fair enough. Fair
15 enough.

16 MR. RHODES: Please come back at the end
17 of the que. Thank you. Tam.

18 Tamra Cook followed by Darren Suarez.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Tamra Cook
20 and I'm from the Akewsane Mohawk Nation and I
21 would like to commend everyone before me that
22 has spoke. And a lot of what they said I
23 really hope that when this is done and over you
24 actually take the time and not only effect your
25 whole -- a whole system in the ways that you

1 actually have to think about this, but about it
2 also grows to your heart. Right now, as one of
3 the speakers said, they would give their life.
4 That is the one thing that we Akewsane people
5 are still here for. We're here to protect this
6 earth. We still exist to protect our Mother.
7 That's our responsibilities. We were not made
8 extinct. You could not get rid of us. And
9 we're not going anywhere. We'll stand on the
10 line, we'll stand on the frontlines and we'll
11 put a call out to our warriors, and they're all
12 across the whole United States, they're all
13 across the world. We have, I don't know, more
14 that actually stand in the frontlines. Not
15 just here, Canada, China, all over the place.
16 Right now we have our brothers and sisters up
17 in New Brunswick that are there constantly,
18 constantly on a daily basis to stop any of
19 this, any of the destruction that you guys are
20 trying to do, that the outsiders are trying to
21 do, that those oil companies are trying to come
22 in and extract these natural resources that are
23 supposed to make our living life so much
24 easier. We're supposed to respect her, we're
25 not supposed to destroy her. And right now,

1 and I have to say that unfortunately he
2 couldn't have been here, and it would have been
3 great for him to actually be here, was
4 Mr. Dennis Bank. And I tell you, after
5 watching him and listening to him, he said that
6 sooner or later you're going to actually have
7 that reason to stand up and to say what you
8 need to say. This is that reason. This is
9 that time to actually stand up and to tell you
10 that we're not going to go away. So I would
11 hope that if that decision lies when you --
12 that you're the one who can decide whether or
13 not we've this allowed here in New York State,
14 that I would ask that you please let New York
15 be the leaders that we're supposed to be and
16 show everyone else that we're not afraid to say
17 no to ban fracking, something that you're not
18 afraid to say no to. That protects your
19 future, your grandchildren's future, protects
20 your water, your land and your air. That that
21 is something that you hold more valuable than a
22 dollar. One thing is that before, just I don't
23 know if you guys understand, that the whole two
24 (Inaudible) but what it does for our people is
25 it represents a thousand years of democratic

1 principals that we shared with our brothers and
2 sisters. Even the new ones, including Thomas
3 Jefferson, Ben Franklin who openly acknowledge
4 in speeches and writings our contributions form
5 the basis of the constitution. We shared our
6 belief that our leaders should represent and
7 serve the people. We shared what we call the
8 great laws with the natural laws of human
9 dignity that preserved an underlying all other
10 laws. And it is important to the pursuit of
11 all happiness that we, the people, now means
12 and continues to mean we all of us who are
13 Americans. So I ask that you listen to at
14 least the people on this. This is why you sit
15 where you sit. This is why our government sits
16 where our government sits, because we the
17 people chose you. Now we're asking you to back
18 us in what we want. Because, like I said,
19 we're not going to go away. We'll stand on the
20 front lines and those calls will be put out.

21 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much. Let's
22 take a quick recess.

23 (A brief recess was taken.)

24 MR. RHODES: Darren Suarez to be followed
25 by Dorothy Pomponio.

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Well, thank you to our
2 stenographer for a small break. Good
3 afternoon. I'm Darren Suarez, director of
4 government affairs for the Business Council of
5 the State of New York. The Business Council is
6 the leading business organization in New York
7 State representing the interests of small and
8 larger firms throughout the state employing our
9 1.4 million people.

10 On behalf of the members of the Business
11 Council of New York State, I would like to
12 thank the members of the New York State Energy
13 Planning Board and their respective agencies,
14 commissions and authorities for the development
15 of the 2014 Draft State Energy Plan.

16 There are numerous items that are
17 contained in the 2014 Draft State Energy Plan
18 that the members of the Business Council
19 support from overachieving goals like improving
20 energy affordability to initiatives like a
21 commitment to support infrastructure
22 improvements to encourage increased use of
23 alternative forms of transit. Additionally,
24 the Business Council strongly supports the
25 draft plan acknowledgement of the power of

1 private sector to provide and improve our
2 energy system's ability to meet the goals of
3 the people of the State of New York.

4 The Business Council's written comments on
5 the draft plan will provide a more
6 comprehensive review and constructive comments
7 on the Draft Energy Plan. Our comments today
8 will focus on a few items of concern.
9 Specifically our comments today will address
10 the benefits of the wholesale markets,
11 transmission upgrades and climate change
12 benefits of natural gas.

13 In reviewing the state's energy needs to
14 ensure that it is important to recognize that
15 what has worked, and then take steps to
16 preserve it and duplicate its successes where
17 applicable. The final state energy plan should
18 recognize that New York now has a dynamic and
19 competitive energy market where capital costs
20 and associated risks for conventional projects
21 are borne directly by private developers rather
22 than through public subsidies.

23 It is important to note the market is
24 explicitly structured to provide price signals
25 for new conventional generation construction,

1 repowering and continued operations where such
2 actions are cost-effective and appropriate to
3 maintaining reliability.

4 In large part due to New York's energy
5 market design, New York electric customers have
6 benefited from cleaner more reliable energy end
7 generation as well as historically lower
8 electricity costs.

9 Additionally, market based solutions have
10 met state-wide reliability. Location based
11 price signals provided by New York's wholesale
12 electricity markets have traditionally
13 encouraged investments in areas where there's
14 demand for electricity.

15 Like all markets, there are opportunities
16 to review and provide minor adjustments to
17 ensure efficient market outcomes that deliver
18 reliable cost power to consumers. One area
19 where the state can facilitate a more efficient
20 wholesale market is improvement of pipelines
21 and power lines.

22 New York's current energy infrastructure,
23 which includes 10,900 miles of high voltage
24 transmission lines, tens of thousands of
25 natural gas transmission lines and 500

1 generators, is the system that generates the
2 life blood of New York's economy. Without
3 heat, light and power, we cannot operate or
4 maintain the businesses and institutions that
5 provide New Yorker's with goods, jobs and
6 homes. And many communities directly benefit
7 from the continued presences of the economic
8 benefits of power generations. New York's
9 existing energy transmission infrastructure
10 represents one of the most cost-effective means
11 to meet the demand of the 21st century. And
12 well-designed transmission upgrades will ensure
13 that future load and generation needs are
14 addressed in New York.

15 The Business Council strongly supports
16 elements of the Draft Energy Plan that support
17 the expansion of the current energy
18 infrastructure. Upgrades and improved
19 transmission lines and pipelines provide
20 economic benefits for New York energy consumers
21 through relief of the most congested elements
22 of the transmission system, integration and
23 expansion of additional renewable energy
24 resources on a non-discriminatory basis, along
25 with congestion relief. Additionally, new

1 electric transmission lines support existing
2 generation resources that are challenged by
3 transmission congestion, thereby helping to
4 secure existing capacity to aid in system
5 reliability and support the existing vast fuel
6 diversity in New York, one of the most fuel
7 diverse states in the country which protects
8 consumers from commodity price volatility as
9 recent cold weather has shown.

10 Our membership in various forms has
11 committed significant time and talent to
12 addressing the myriad of public policy issues
13 surrounding climate change. We are concerned
14 the draft state energy plan does not focus
15 enough on the development of upon climate
16 policies with co-benefits, and instead focuses
17 upon one-sector command and control mechanism
18 which has not been proven effective at
19 addressing CO2. Additionally, we believe that
20 it is unwise to focus climate policy merely on
21 carbon dioxide to the exclusion of other human
22 influences on the climate system. In fact,
23 early action on a wider range of human
24 influences on climate could be timelier and
25 less costly.

1 The Business Council supports the adoption
2 of climate policies with co-benefits. We
3 support the adoption of climate policies that
4 provide near term, concrete, politically
5 attractive benefits that additionally address
6 climate change. Thus, the primary rationale
7 for the policy goals is to improve the quality
8 of human life, enjoyment and health, economic
9 advancement. Additionally, each of these
10 policy goals would have co-benefits to reduce
11 the scale of humans on the climate system.

12 This draft energy map should be amended to
13 include a specific initiative dedicated to the
14 advancement and adoption of more LNG usage in
15 New York State. It is time that fear and
16 emotions be put aside and for the state to
17 embrace facts and hard science.

18 LNG is beginning to be used in rural areas
19 as an alternative to propane and oil heat.

20 Additionally, LNG can meet the demands of New
21 York distributed energy needs.

22 The Business Council of the State of New
23 York believes that the state plan should commit
24 to address our energy needs through advance
25 mean of sustainable improvements.

1 And, finally, we support and believe that
2 the state energy plan should be specifically
3 committed to the promotion of economic
4 liability of our nuclear power generation and
5 low-carbon nuclear energy that provides
6 numerous attributes including round-the-clock
7 production of large amounts of electricity to
8 help stabilize the electric grid, clean air
9 compliance, forward electricity price
10 stability, fuel and technology diversity and
11 high-paying jobs at facilities that can
12 withstand extreme natural and man-made events.
13 Thank you.

14 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much. Dorothy
15 Pomponio followed by Anthony Guarneri. Okay,
16 Anthony Guarneri to be followed by William
17 Huston.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. I'm Anthony
19 Guarneri with ASI Energy. I'm here today to
20 speak about the technology combined Heating and
21 Power and Mirco Grids and their installation
22 that we're working with, specifically with the
23 multi-owner situation. I'm here from Northeast
24 Green Heat and Power Initiative.

25 This overview of what I would like to

1 present is of combined heating and power in
2 microgrid. I would like to speak about the
3 Program Energize Ithaca Mirco Grid. I would
4 like to address Initiative 3 regarding
5 implementing building codes and standards that
6 will support energy efficiency and clean
7 energy. And then a request for policy
8 development for microgrid and the
9 interconnection thereof to make it easier with
10 codes and interconnection a requirement. Some
11 specific micro interconnections is simply we
12 want to help get clean, and that is what I'm
13 going to end this presentation on.

14 So my business partner Herbert Dwyer and I
15 own ASI Energy and ASI Renovations. An Ithaca
16 based CHP developer. We are a designer build
17 finance operate firm working with energy
18 efficient technology suited for the individual
19 building needs of a building. So we work in a
20 public situation. We don't represent
21 technology.

22 Combined heating and power is a technology
23 that burns a single fuel to produce electricity
24 and hot water. So basically you scale down a
25 power plant to fit in a boiler room. Natural

1 gas is burned to boil water and spin generators
2 to produce electricity. Instead other exhaust
3 gas is being vented into the atmosphere. It is
4 captured and used to heat water and the water
5 is distributed to heat the local building. You
6 can think of this technology as a big boiler
7 that captures the exhaust gas to spin an
8 alternator to produce electricity locally. We
9 can also cool with this hot water by running it
10 through an absorption chiller which, in a
11 nutshell, produces chilled water for hydraulic
12 cooling so your cooling is not using
13 electricity, which is more efficient. There's
14 actually a CHP being used in this building on
15 the first floor. I happen to come across that.

16 I would like to talk about microgrids. A
17 microgrid is a small scale version of the
18 centralized electric system. A microgrid is
19 electricity and hot water, in this case
20 generation energy and load consumption that
21 would normally operate connected to the
22 traditional centralized map, how far it could
23 stand upon itself. This single point of common
24 coupling with the microgrid can be
25 disconnection in a microgrid can function

1 alone. So when Superstorm Sandy hit, and
2 everyone lost power and buildings were black,
3 when the buildings did actually have power, the
4 majority of them were combined heating and
5 power. So this is what I'm speaking on. CHP
6 power and microgrid make multi-owner systems
7 easier to install from a building component
8 interconnection standpoint.

9 I am here speaking on behalf the Northeast
10 clean Heat and Power Initiative. The
11 organization functions across seven
12 northeastern states and New England and New
13 York as a volunteer association for the past
14 decade. We are a 501C6 non-profit. We are a
15 business league which shares a common interest
16 in developing favorable situations for the
17 technology as a whole to be implemented.

18 Top page of Page 3. So the board wanted
19 to invite panel members and general audience to
20 an annual meeting on May 13 at the Empire State
21 Plaza. Google search it and it will probably
22 pull up the rest of the details. NECHPI is
23 interested in having a table discussion where
24 we can speak on behalf of policy and lend
25 different opinions.

1 After reviewing the New York State Energy
2 Draft Plan, which is an excellent plan and we
3 are very excited about the many strategies
4 outlined in the Draft Energy Plan that
5 harmonize well with CHP. We support this plan
6 and look forward to its implementation. We
7 also look to NYSERDA and Govenour Cuomo for the
8 incentives and support of CHP technology that
9 we have recently achieved in economic
10 incentives of over 100 million dollars in the
11 next three years.

12 Initiative 3; building codes
13 interconnection. We want to connect
14 multi-owners in microgrid by the Burrstone
15 Project. They had some problems with this, so
16 some of the policies we're interested in
17 working with is the definition of at or near
18 which was brought up in Burrstone. Making the
19 possibility of all our power through the
20 microgrid to consumers through purchase power
21 agreement for other mechanisms using
22 essentially transmission lines to purchase
23 power, our own energy. We would like the
24 process for interconnection multi-building --
25 multiple building owners to be alerted to this

1 sort of process. And that's it. The
2 supplemental information is in the rest of the
3 packet. Thank you.

4 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much.

5 So now I have three requests for second
6 speaker opportunities. William Huston, Kim
7 Michaels and Michelle -- Carol Chock.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can we make it four?

9 MR. RHODES: Sure. Keith Schue. It's
10 just us now so we get to decide shall we stick
11 with the five minute rule?

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I don't think I'm going
13 to need five minutes.

14 MR. RHODES: Then we'll stick with the
15 five minute rule, and if we need a little past
16 that, we'll go to that.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you. William
18 Huston, Broome County. One thing I would like
19 to see in the Draft Energy Plan, and I need to
20 do some actual more study of, which is why
21 we're asking for more time, I think there's a
22 lot people in the same situation that I am. I
23 didn't see much having to do with energy
24 conservation. I think that's an important,
25 critical part of this. I would like to see

1 more on that. Out of the 15 initiatives, there
2 really were a few in there that sounded good to
3 me in terms of support for green energy,
4 renewable energy. One troubling thing is the
5 first one of the very first 11 goals of the
6 first initiative is fostering economic growth.
7 To quote Edward Abbey, "growth is a paradigm of
8 cancer cell." This is an obsolete and a failed
9 world view and it doesn't match the realities
10 of our world, which has to do with, of course,
11 climate change. And the one thing that I
12 wanted to speak about the first time I was up,
13 and I'm grateful that you're allowing me a
14 second time, is peak oil. So climate change
15 really is the biggest problem, because on the
16 horizon is mass extinction. So that's the most
17 serious problem is climate change. However,
18 peak oil, and very few people are talking about
19 this but I'm become sure you're all familiar
20 with peak oil, basically is used as a single
21 gas oil. Follows a parabolic curve in terms of
22 its production. And this guy called HC Hubbard
23 became an authority on aggregate oil fields on
24 planet earth that also is an approximate --
25 it's a parabolic function. So the idea is that

1 we're going to burn through half of the
2 recoverable reserves and then no matter what we
3 do after that point we're going to have a
4 diminishing reserve. And I think that most
5 people who have studied this problem,
6 scientists, they weren't in disagreement about
7 whether peak oil is true, but some disagreement
8 with gas peak or shale gas peak or peak of
9 various findings. The problem with being on
10 the downside of the peak oil curve is that it's
11 extremely serious, especially when our demands
12 for fossil fuels, which is embodied in this
13 plan, that's a fledgling point. I explain it
14 as the second derivative over the first
15 derivative. A positive slope to a negative
16 slope. Yet the demand is rising. What we
17 expect to see from this is much higher prices
18 for those fuels. And the other thing it has to
19 do with energy return on energy investment. So
20 the ultimate barrier is one-to-one. That means
21 in the old days they would spend one unit of
22 energy and poke a hole down and you would get a
23 hundred or two hundred units of energy back.
24 Now typically in our fuel mix our EROEI is
25 somewhere around ten to one -- I'm sorry, one

1 to ten or one to five. The ultimate barrier is
2 one-to-one. If you spend a unit of energy to
3 get a unit of energy, there's no reason to even
4 go for it. And that's called the energy cliff.
5 You don't want to reach the energy cliff. We
6 need here -- what we need here, that is recall
7 the point for you all, is that as we approach
8 EROEI one-to-one, the practical limit for
9 technical reason is higher than that. We're
10 getting close to the technical climate energy
11 limit of energy production. There should -- we
12 leave it up to the free market. We're still
13 going to -- we're going to take this, we're
14 going to take this fossil fuel party to the
15 last day if we're going to follow what the
16 market is doing to the bank and the energy
17 companies. We're going to take this to the
18 last day. And when it runs out, there's going
19 to be a human crash. What we need is a -- we
20 need the regulators, that's you all, we need
21 you to form policy that shifts us into the
22 right direction before we hit that critical
23 point or else we're going to meet with
24 disaster. Thank you.

25 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much. I don't

1 see her, but for the record Kim Michaels?
2 Carol Chock to be followed by Keith Schue to be
3 followed by Lenora Monkemeyer.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you for this
5 opportunity to speak again. I'm Carol Chock
6 from Tompkins County Legislature. I will make
7 a personal observation that the -- I think one
8 of the reasons you're seeing such an eminent
9 response from people to the nature of this plan
10 is -- and to some of the energy discussions in
11 New York State -- can be traced to the kind of
12 observations that were made in Moreland
13 Commission. Not the one that is -- has been in
14 the news on ethics, but the storm report. And
15 if you look there, I think it's on Pages 31 to
16 37, it might be in the 40's, about process,
17 communication regarding energy decisions and
18 access. That ultimate effect the rate payer,
19 who are the consumers of that, which we're
20 trying to do here, just addressing the process
21 is -- needs to be part of any planning. So
22 that's why, it's a personal observation from
23 work that I have done as president of the rate
24 payers an community interventors group on
25 public service commission cases. I did want to

1 take time to go back to some of the stuff I
2 didn't have a chance to talk about from the
3 Tompkins County Resolution that was passed two
4 nights ago, which you all now have copies of.
5 I talk about our experiences with weather
6 events. I would also like to talk about the
7 ways in which we have already experienced and
8 will, as communities across the state will
9 experience, economic and social impacts from
10 the changes in uncertainties in the energy
11 supply mix and price structure for existing and
12 new sources of energy unless there's advance
13 planning. And one of the things that was
14 referred to in the New York State Energy
15 Highway Blueprints that didn't come out in the
16 energy plans, and I think that's really
17 important, is that if you look at the
18 blueprints, many of other programs talked about
19 they're now having those blueprints on the
20 website that take you to an actual program.
21 The ones that don't still is a common
22 transition program. It was recommended to be
23 established as part of energy blueprints and
24 any plans made to establish bold solutions to
25 new challenges -- this is now from the

1 resolution -- must meet these challenges with
2 new solutions by making sure that new
3 communities and incentives are available in the
4 community that have built their employment and
5 tax base on the older technologies. Renewable
6 technology and incentives should be offered to
7 companies to build in those communities like
8 ours formerly housing fossil fuels or nuclear
9 fueled plants. As we go through, and this is
10 back to me, you know, as we transition to new
11 technologies in any field, when we close the
12 clothing mills, the towns that didn't develop a
13 plan about how to survive as new technology
14 moved in to replace those were in trouble. And
15 so unless a plan for New York State addresses
16 that, we'll be in trouble. And we'll never get
17 to that if we don't plan for the communities
18 that will be hurt along the way and then that
19 should be helped to implement green technology
20 and profit from those. Other thing that we
21 referred to in our resolution that we would
22 like to see revised in the final plan, tougher
23 building standards and energy efficiency
24 methods require new buildings to achieve net
25 zero use by specific target dates. The

1 potential energy generating capacity using
2 available substance as renewable energy were
3 referred to in several plans, now most noted
4 the Jacobson plan from standards. There were
5 13 authors. Jacobson, two of them were Bob
6 Howard and Tony (inaudible) was published and
7 called energy policy issue 57 in 2013. And the
8 numbers for New York State were updated and can
9 easily be found and looked at a site called the
10 solution project. Solutionproject.org. They
11 have created a plan for every state. So please
12 read that. Just a few more. Greater levels of
13 detail about reduction in demand that could be
14 achieved through demand requirements. There's
15 no reason why, in our case, the new steel plant
16 up in Auburn shouldn't be scaling back on the
17 busiest times of the year. One more: Defined
18 targets for clean vehicular transportation.

19 And just in conclusion, the draft plan
20 emphasizes, and we agree with, market based
21 solutions to our energy transition. We believe
22 that the approach that includes the
23 implementation of regulations and tax policies
24 aimed at penalizing polluting energy sources
25 and encouraging efficiency in renewable energy

1 will be necessary ultimately to dramatically
2 change the market in favor of renewable energy
3 and efficiency, especially in time to met the
4 target date set. So we encourage you that we
5 think it's doable. And we encourage you to
6 address that in the final plan. And thank you,
7 again, for this opportunity.

8 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much. Keith
9 Schue to be followed by Lenora Monkemeyer and
10 then Lindzee Powell.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you again for this
12 second opportunity to talk. I appreciate that.
13 I want to talk a little bit about how you -- a
14 little more technical standpoint, how you
15 calculate the impact, the climate driving
16 impact, of methane and carbon dioxide. Because
17 this has been talked about a lot today but I
18 want to discuss it a little more. One thing
19 that I see in this plan is that a forecast
20 for -- if you do consider carbon dioxide
21 equivalency, there's a forecast here that says
22 by 2030 that you can get to 9 percent below
23 1990 levels. And on Page 14 of Volume 2, that
24 is, it says New York forecasts total greenhouse
25 gas emissions are anticipated to decrease by

1 2.4 from 2011 to reach about 2000 MMT carbon
2 dioxide equivalent by 2030, or nine percent
3 below 1990 levels. So your forecast by the
4 year 2030 that you're going to be just
5 nine percent below, and that's looking at
6 carbon dioxide equivalency. The reason we have
7 a big problem with looking at just methane is
8 because, if I reconcile this with the other
9 claim that's made, that you think you can get
10 to -- you think you can get to 50 percent
11 reduction of carbon dioxide only by 2030. That
12 really tells you this nine percent versus that
13 50 percent how much you're not taking into
14 account that's related to methane. So getting
15 to 50 percent reduction by 2030 with carbon
16 dioxide obviously isn't getting you anywhere
17 close to what you need to be if you're -- that
18 only means nine percent of carbon dioxide
19 equivalency in the same time frame. Then
20 obviously you have 71 percent left to go in the
21 next 20 years after that. So there seems to be
22 a real problem with that. So I would also want
23 to mention that carbon dioxide equivalency
24 itself, there's some defects in looking at that
25 only. You mean the EPA acknowledges

1 multi-factors which is about 21 -- basically
2 that methane has a climate driving effect that
3 is 21 times worse than carbon dioxide. We know
4 from the intergovernmental panel climate
5 planning that number really is more like over a
6 hundred years time frame. But what really
7 matters is what happens over that 20 year time
8 frame. So that 20 year time frame where we
9 know that effect is 86 times worse. That makes
10 all the difference. That has been said a few
11 times here today. We don't have a hundred
12 years to deal with this problem. 20 years time
13 frame is absolutely critical. We have good
14 science that says, that oceans are approaching
15 this temperature threshold by -- we'll reach
16 two degrees Celsius increase. And when that
17 happens, we're in a state where the climate
18 can't be recovered thousands of years before we
19 get back, so we have to very quickly bring our
20 emissions up. The next 20 years is absolutely
21 critical. So I would suggest that when you
22 look at CO₂, you need to look at something
23 else. Maybe call it CO₂ plus something that
24 actually looks at what that impact is over the
25 20 year time frame. Thank you.

1 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much. Lenora
2 Myers and then Lindzee Powell. And I believe
3 another request just came in.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. My name is
5 Lenora Myers. I'm an alumni of Syracuse
6 University. The New York Energy Plan should
7 include many more renewables because they're
8 getting better, more efficient with design. A
9 new design is a three dimensional one that is
10 two times more than -- 20 times more powerful
11 out than flat solar panels with the same base
12 area. It goes like this: Tell me if you have
13 seen the new solar panels? It looks this
14 (Indicating.) How many have seen that? It has
15 the shape of an accordion design. Has anybody
16 seen that before?

17 MR. RHODES: Yes.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Great. It's an
19 accordion shape that rises vertically on the
20 roof. The design picks up the sunlight early
21 in the morning at sunrise and later in the
22 afternoon at sunset and in winter, something
23 that flat panels cannot do. MIT tested these
24 panels on the roof with great success. From
25 MIT news magazine 3-D solar. With innovation

1 such as these, one can see a grand opening into
2 solar along, and it is an exciting time. I
3 hope New York State Energy Plan studies this
4 plan and other innovations and includes them in
5 its energy plan. The New York Energy Plan
6 should also assist DIY's, do-it-yourselfers,
7 who wish to assemble their own solar or wind
8 energy projects. Online could be a free
9 website to assist homeowners to make solar
10 panels, et cetera, for their home or duplex.
11 The directions should be written simply for the
12 non-scientists. Another example for heating
13 innovation is a building we are in now. The --
14 they use wood pellets from Willows. It not
15 only heats this building, but it heats adjacent
16 buildings. Nuclear should be phased out due to
17 the dangers of radioactivity. Fukushima is an
18 example. And we have a similar plant in
19 Oswego, New York of a similar design that could
20 be potentially very dangerous. Fracking
21 liquidated natural gas and storage tanks should
22 be banned in New York. According to
23 scientists, radioactivity from base water is
24 267 times the allowable rate. It can cause
25 cancer and Leukemia. For your future plans,

1 let's invite experts from Europe to give
2 lectures who can help us formulate our
3 renewable energy plan and transportation plan.
4 Let's have a great time and a great century in
5 the 21st century in renewables and try to stop
6 global warming. Thank you.

7 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much.

8 We have Lindzee Powell followed by Julia
9 Wright.

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: And thank you for taking
11 the time to hear me speak today. My name is
12 Lindzee Powell and I'm a New York State
13 resident as well as a student at Syracuse
14 University. I also worked on a hydrofracking
15 campaign organization on campus. I'm an
16 aspiring geologist. I want to see how earth
17 works. I want to learn what the earth is made
18 up of. I want to be educated as to be a
19 leader. And I'm taking a stand for certain New
20 York State residents to be a voice for those
21 who don't know how to be or that they can be.
22 You all have been appointed to act in New
23 York's best interest. So why is fracking so
24 controversial? Why does a dollar mean more
25 than future generations than my generation, the

1 generation of my nieces and my nephews? Say no
2 to air pollution. It's dangerous to New York
3 State that has seen detrimental consequences
4 all over the US, and just south of us in
5 Pennsylvania. We do not have a water treatment
6 plan to treat hydrofracking. I don't know if
7 you all have families, but personally I would
8 do anything for my family. As a one child of
9 14, I was born and raised to fight for what I
10 believe in and I will wholeheartedly do so for
11 my family. I have family who live in the
12 southern tier who will be directly effected if
13 hydrofracking is brought to New York State.
14 Maybe my cousins will drink toxic tap water. I
15 stand here before you today to take a moment
16 and think about it. Stand for what you believe
17 in. Hydrofracking pumps 800 known toxins into
18 ground water and hundreds more of chemicals
19 that are unknown. This is not just affecting
20 one spot of New York State, but every single
21 inhabitant of this state either directly,
22 indirectly. We need to ensure a clean
23 environment. That's why I'm here today. The
24 State Energy Plan is supposed to shape our
25 future, so why are we willing to bring

1 hydrofracking here for a few extra dollars?
2 The impact of fracking on water and air quality
3 is completely ignored. This is something that
4 should be one hundred percent denounced in the
5 plan. We rely heavily on natural gas, and
6 hydrofracking will only increase our reliance.
7 The state energy plan is supposed to protect
8 New York's environment and to shape the future
9 of the environment. What will happen in the
10 next 10, 20, 30 years if fracking is allowed?
11 Detriment, consequences and an unhealthy
12 environment that's searching and driving for
13 natural gas. I'm here today to please let me
14 learn, let me become the geologist that I'm
15 aspiring to be. Thank you.

16 MR. RHODES: Thank you. Julia Wright.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm Julia Wright and I
18 have been in Syracuse now for four years living
19 and working in Syracuse. Before I get started,
20 I would like to thank you for the opportunity
21 to speak today. I would also like to thank the
22 individuals that spoke before me and those that
23 will speak after me. New York State's Energy
24 Plan has focus and goals to achieve a clean
25 environment in New York. The plan envisions

1 for an increase in natural gas use in New York
2 over the next 20 years. A goal impossible to
3 achieve. Relying on natural gas, especially
4 from fracking, within New York, especially from
5 fracking -- I lost my spot. Relying on natural
6 gas, especially from fracking in New York or
7 its borders undermines plan's achievement for
8 natural gas production can be done safely and
9 will bring forth a direct environment is
10 absurd. All we have to do to prove this is
11 look directly south of New York's borders to
12 Pennsylvania. We've seen fracking down there
13 and we've yet to see it be done safely. And,
14 in fact, time and time again there have been
15 again many consequences that are directly
16 related to fracking. Fracking has resulted in
17 diminished air quality, decreased property
18 value. And the problem that most concerns is
19 toxic tap water. Those impacts that I've just
20 stated are completely ignored with the current
21 draft plan. The state must look at all
22 greenhouse gas emissions, not just carbon
23 dioxide if we're serious about addressing a
24 climate change. Most anything from fracking
25 gas undermines any benefits of reducing carbon

1 emissions from other fossil fuels to natural
2 gas. Furthermore, the state did not meet its
3 goal of 80 by '20 under this plan. Depleting
4 that gas industry as part of the EPA and New
5 York State government believe within the
6 current draft fracking significantly means
7 emissions during every step of the process. I
8 could stand up here for hours and tell you what
9 I believe is in addition within the draft of
10 the state Energy Plan because I'm sure there's
11 plenty more. But I'm not going to.
12 Fortunately, my allies have been here today,
13 have spoken before me and have made an
14 impressive job outlining the different issues
15 within the draft. What I will tell you is that
16 I've built a community of family in Syracuse
17 for the past six years. I consider myself a
18 New Yorker and that's why I've been at the
19 front of the fight to ban fracking here. I
20 will fight for the welfare of my community,
21 family and friends as well as the well-being of
22 many generations of New Yorkers to come. In
23 your vision of the state energy plan, I urge
24 you to turn away from fossil fuels like natural
25 gas and turn to renewable energy resources like

1 wind and solar. I urge you to stop listening
2 to special interest groups and instead listen
3 to the public's interest as well as your
4 constituents that have vowed to represent.
5 Thank you very much.

6 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much.

7 So what we'll do now is take a break and
8 see if we've more speakers showing up. We will
9 be here until 7:00. So how about 4:30 we'll
10 reconvene and see if we have more.

11 (A brief recess was taken.)

12 MR. RHODES: We'll start with Howie
13 Hawkins followed by Peter Swords.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good afternoon. My name
15 is Howie Hawkins. I live here in Syracuse. I
16 was the green party candidate for New York
17 State governor in 2010. I'm seeking the green
18 party nomination again this year. I have six
19 point, and I'm just going to briefly mention
20 them. I have written up the testimony, I can
21 leave with you.

22 The first point is, for me most important,
23 the goal attempt of carbon envision reduction
24 in the draft plan is the 80 percent below 1990
25 levels. The plan affirms Govenour Paterson's

1 executive order of 24 that was adopted in 2009.
2 People like William (inaudible) and Kevin
3 Anderson and his colleagues said that we need
4 to reduce industrial areas like New York by
5 six percent between -- between six percent per
6 year in ten years. That's between 10 and 17
7 years. If we're going to avoid catastrophic
8 climate change, we need to stay below the two
9 degree Celsius rise in temperature, which is
10 seen as the tipping. We go over the tipping
11 point and climate change is accelerated beyond
12 reversible. Fortunately we have seen a recent
13 study by Mark Jacobson who said in New York we
14 need a hundred percent carbon-free energy in 17
15 years by 2030. I think that ought to be the
16 goal of the energy plan, that's where you
17 should start. I should mention that the
18 prediction in the Jacobson study for the
19 economic impact is enormous. 600 billion
20 dollars invested, four-and-a-half million
21 construction jobs, 58,000 permanent jobs,
22 payroll of 18-and-a-half billion per year on a
23 construction phase and 5 billion per year
24 during the maintenance operation phase after
25 its built. So that is the most important

1 point, if I say. I hope that stays with you.
2 The plan is having a lot of forecasts but it
3 seems to be more adoption to these forecasts
4 than a progressive plan specifically targeting
5 a timeline. That's my second point.

6 My third point is, you probably heard this
7 all day, natural gas is not clean. It may be
8 even worse than oil and gas according to the
9 reserve by Robert Howarth and Anthony Infraffea
10 at Cornell. So there are alternatives. Ground
11 source heat pumps, solar thermal panels and
12 sustainable biofuels where biochar is put back
13 in the soil and sequestered.

14 My fourth point is nuclear power. Plans
15 seems to increase in the nuclear power in 2030
16 when two plants are scheduled to be retired.

17 Before then we have a political leadership of
18 the state pushing shutdown of Indian Points 1
19 and 2. Financial media reports that
20 Fitzpatrick and Ginna should shutdown for
21 economic reasons. So this is not realistic and
22 I would argue that the plan should plan for the
23 rapid phase out nuclear power and its
24 replacement should be with a clean renewable.

25 Fifth point. Electrified transportation.

1 Transportation needs to be much more developed.

2 The Jacobson study goes on how an electrified
3 transportation would look. It would include
4 the vehicle trucks and cars as well electrified
5 ails for interurban mass transit, interurban
6 travel. We used those interurban travel
7 between 1900 and 1940 that served upstate
8 cities and towns very well. And then, of
9 course, highspeed rail, which is being
10 discussed.

11 As the last point, energy efficiency, the
12 cheapest and fastest source of clean energy.
13 This needs to be much more flushed out with
14 specific targets and timelines. I did see one
15 target of 20 percent demand reduction by 2025,
16 which is close to that or the Jacobson study
17 which implies 37 percent reduction by 2030.
18 But it needs to be flushed out. And I
19 understand that -- or there's been a study of
20 renewable energy initiative that's not been
21 made public. I would love to see the study, so
22 will you release that? Thank you.

23 MR. RHODES: Thank you. Peter Swords.

24 Thank you for coming back, sir.

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you for keeping

1 the hearing open today so that people like me
2 who work can still participate. I've lived in
3 Syracuse for 40 years, raised a family here,
4 own a home. I still own a home and have worked
5 as an automechanic and social worker, so I have
6 some practical experience in how energy can be
7 used to save and can become something that we
8 have some input into the decision about.
9 Thirty years ago in my home we still had solar
10 energy tax credit, we built a solar greenhouse.
11 It's still operating and helping to heat my
12 house today. And I'm very grateful to NYSERDA
13 and to all the renewable energy policies that
14 had led to that short window of time in
15 1984/1985 when we were able to build a
16 greenhouse. I would love to see those kinds of
17 supports for renewable energy come back. If
18 you think of how many families would be able to
19 use that, even in Syracuse, even those -- we
20 have a month or so of very dark skies, very
21 cold weather, it still works. There's enough
22 sunny days that this greenhouse is really
23 working for me. So I would recommend that if
24 we have more support for not only passive solar
25 and solar heating, but also efficiency, people

1 insulating houses, getting rids of waste. I
2 think we could save a lot of energy. Of course
3 as people have said the cheapest energy source
4 is efficiency. Speaking of efficiency. At the
5 same time I've been living here we built
6 additional nuclear plants up north. We
7 discovered the cost overrun safety probably
8 with nuclear waste. We also discovered that
9 nuclear is not carbon free. Nuclear plants use
10 the uranium which is mined using huge
11 bulldozers and alike that burn fossil fuels and
12 it's enriched using all kinds of very, very
13 high energy processes. I was one of nine
14 people in Oswego several years ago when the NRC
15 came to town to have a hearing about possibly
16 building a fourth nuclear plant, I was one of
17 nine people t that hearing of 300 people, the
18 rest of the people were obviously pro-nuclear,
19 I was there when Steve Pend, who is a physicist
20 and professor spoke up and asked the panel if
21 they have ever done a study to compare cost of
22 energy produced by a nuclear power with energy
23 saved by efficiencies. You know what they
24 said, the NRC guys said we don't study
25 efficiencies, we don't know. That was really

1 amazing to me that it a government energy
2 agency would not have that kind of information.
3 I think that's something that we should make
4 sure we have so that we can determine whether
5 we can actually practically plan the kind of
6 thing that this energy plan is outlining, which
7 I think are very good goals. Because climate
8 change is not only about the sources and the
9 demands and how we tailor the sources and
10 supply to what we actually use it for. It's
11 very silly to use electricity for heat,
12 important to use solar. It's very silly to
13 use -- to try to use nuclear power to boil
14 water to produce energy. And you know what we
15 are stuck with is a lot of cost. New York
16 State can be a leader in smart energy use. I
17 would like to see us use the skills and
18 resources of ESF, the efficiencies, the studies
19 that have already been done at the Center of
20 excellence downtown. I would like to see that
21 information get added to the New York State
22 Energy Plan so we have something that will
23 makes sense and can benefit people like me who
24 can -- want to continue to live here in New
25 York State. Thank you very much.

1 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much, sir. So
2 now we're going to pause and see if we get more
3 speakers and comments. We will reconvene at
4 5:45. And, of course, if there's a need,
5 because of time of day, we'll reconvene sooner.
6 But Mr. Swords and Mr. Hawkins, I don't know if
7 you're going to stay for my final remarks, but
8 thank you very much for coming. It really is
9 an important part of the process. I know you
10 made a great effort, twice in one case.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: We appreciate your work.
12 And hope to see it on the website if we can't
13 hear the final stuff today.

14 MR. RHODES: Thank you.

15 (A brief recess was taken.)

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you for taking my
17 comments. This is a Jean Kessner. I asked
18 Renee Vogelsang to read them because I didn't
19 have an opportunity to. I want very much to be
20 heard. I'm Jean Kessner, Councilor-at-Large
21 for the City of Syracuse. My committee is
22 neighborhood preservation and environment in
23 that role, but more importantly in the role of
24 Elected Officials to Protect New York. EOPNY.
25 That's a consortium of more than 800 locally

1 elected officials from every county in New York
2 State who advocate on the behalf of the
3 continuing moratorium on hydrofracking until
4 and unless health studies prove that fracking
5 is not harmful to human or environmental
6 health. EOPNY will be filing longer comments
7 separately within the deadline. But I'm here
8 today to speak on behalf the organization and I
9 am coordinator of that organization. Our view
10 of the State Energy Plan, which in one word, is
11 that we find it lacking. While setting forth
12 and admirable goal of 80 percent reduction in
13 greenhouse gasses from the 1990 levels by 2050,
14 the plan lacks a strong roadmap for how to get
15 there. It sets no benchmarks or clear steps.
16 Inexplicably, the plan forecasts anemic growth
17 in renewable sources of energy. Instead it
18 actually promotes widespread expansion of
19 natural gas. It actually describes natural gas
20 as a clean fuel. Natural gas is a fossil fuel.
21 Burning a fossil fuel contributes to climate
22 change. Clean fuels are renewable, wind,
23 hydro, solar. And according to this plan's own
24 documentation, New York State more than doubled
25 it's output on renewables between 1990 and

1 2012, renewable in wind and solar. And that's
2 a far bigger gain than any other power source
3 in that same time. And although there are some
4 good initiatives in this plan relating to
5 renewables, we need to be more specific and we
6 need more significant commitments to expanding
7 the roll of renewable.

8 Contrary to this, unfortunately the plan
9 predicts that natural gas production in New
10 York State will triple by 2030. That's
11 intimating that New York's moratorium on
12 fracking will be lifted. It indicated that
13 production may well be even greater in this
14 state if permitting difficulties are reduced.
15 Permitting difficulties for hydrofracking are
16 reduced.

17 Further, the plan promotes increased
18 infrastructure for gas transmission and
19 distribution, a misguided use of our state's
20 resources and investments.

21 Fracking is not clean. A significant and
22 rapidly growing body of science shows that
23 fracking poisons water, air, land and it
24 contributes to climate change. It releases
25 methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Which brings

1 me to my next point. Just what are our goals
2 here? What are we trying to do? Again, this
3 plan reaffirms New York's goal of reducing
4 total greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent
5 from the 1990 levels by 2050. Yet this plan
6 only commits to measuring one greenhouse gas,
7 carbon dioxide, before 2030. This ignores
8 methane, which is 30 times -- 34 times more
9 potent as a greenhouse gas over a hundred years
10 and 86 times more so over 20 years.

11 Significant amounts of methane are leaked
12 during the gas drilling and fracking process
13 and in the transportation of natural gas.

14 New York needs a plan that charts a course
15 for the future, that sets aggressive targets
16 for production of renewables and energy and for
17 greater environment efficiencies economy wide.
18 A plan that tightens building codes and ups
19 standards on appliances and aggressively
20 enforces those rules. We need to set our
21 sights high and lead the nation away from its
22 independence on fossil fuels. This will set us
23 on a brighter and healthier plan for the future
24 and it will create far more jobs than continued
25 reliance on dirty fossil fuels. Thank you.

1 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much. And
2 thank you for your persistence in coming.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you.

4 MR. RHODES: I don't want to say anything
5 disparaging about this nice young woman, but it
6 was great to hear it straight from you. She
7 did her best job.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you. I care
9 deeply about this. I have four grandchildren.

10 MR. RHODES: We'll pause until we get
11 speakers.

12 Don Hughes is next.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you everyone in
14 attendance. This is a woman that taught both
15 of my kids math (indicating.) I'm Don Hughes.
16 I have been a resident of New York State for
17 all of my life pretty much, except a very brief
18 stint in New Jersey which we don't want to talk
19 about that. But I'm here on behalf of myself
20 and the citizens of this great state and as a
21 leader in the local chapter of the Sierra Club.
22 I want to thank you for setting up these
23 hearings, what have been all across the state.
24 Particularly glad that this hearing extended
25 into the after work hours, otherwise I would

1 not have been able to present today. I want to
2 talk mainly -- I want to address the goals
3 which are shown on Page 20 of the plan. It
4 says New York envisions a flexible and clean
5 energy system that empowers residential
6 customers, businesses and communities to
7 achieve the reliability and affordability they
8 value. To achieve this, we'll focus on the
9 five on the following five areas, okay. So far
10 so good.

11 Goal number one. Goal number one is --
12 must be to address the climate change. Must
13 be. Time is running out, gentlemen and ladies.
14 We have maybe 20 years to change the curve.
15 2013 we hit two benchmarks. One was that we
16 have put more carbon dioxide into the air than
17 ever before and the other is that we've hit 400
18 parts per million. Scientists say that 350 is
19 a number that we can live with. We are now 50
20 parts per million past that. We're careening
21 off the cliff here. 450, that's when the
22 scientists say we're hitting a danger zone.
23 600, we're over the cliff. We're going two
24 parts per million per year. Do the math.
25 Speaking of math. We must decrease our

1 reliance on fossil fuels. I recommend to you
2 issue priority number one has got to be
3 decrease our reliance on fossil fuels
4 50 percent -- and I'm sure you folks know the
5 numbers better than I do -- 50 percent of our
6 electricity comes from fossil fuels. We need
7 to make it a hundred percent of our electricity
8 from fossil fuels free sources. We need to
9 move to renewables. I know there New York
10 State has some wonderful incentive programs in
11 place to encourage solar power, wind power.
12 Which is great and we're seeing development
13 along those lines, we're seeing wind farms
14 upstate New York. The reports talk about the
15 charge increase, but we have to do more.
16 There's the -- this human condition, human
17 psyche of (inaudible.) I plead guilty myself.
18 I've got natural gas heating my house. I've
19 got a car which consumes gasoline. We need an
20 all out campaign to convince people to change.
21 We've got to change and we have to change fast.
22 I would like to have a world that my kids can
23 look forward to living in. I hear from parents
24 about how their children are not having
25 children because they're scared. They're

1 scared. It doesn't look good. We've got more
2 and more storms, Greenland is melting, the North
3 Pole is disappearing and we'll be open water in
4 a matter of a couple decades. World government
5 is already preparing for that looking for oil,
6 looking for new -- the new military landscape
7 because of movement of ships.

8 MR. RHODES: Sir, I don't want to
9 interrupt, but I will. I know we have a hard
10 stop time at 7:00. We just had another speaker
11 show up. I want to make you aware of that.

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Okay. Duly noted. I
13 also want to recommend to you that goal number
14 two should be that New York State is
15 independent. In other words, that it is
16 self-reliant for power. We don't import power,
17 we make our own power. So let's not import
18 power from Canada, let's not rely on
19 importation from Ohio, let's do it ourselves.
20 And of course that means renewables, wind,
21 solar. We've got to push that as hard and as
22 fast as possible.

23 Number three, resilient flexible power
24 grid. Great, do it, I highly endorse it.
25 Thank you for putting that there. Give

1 customers more control over the energy. Again,
2 great goal, keep it.

3 Aligning energy innovation with market
4 demand. Not sure what that means. But I would
5 add that we have got to consider nuclear power
6 as something that is going to go away. It is
7 just too expensive. It's not a fossil fuel
8 source but it's -- those plants are old and
9 they're going to phase out. And so, again, we
10 need to ramp up and put in more wind, more
11 solar. Denmark, Germany, great examples. The
12 fate of Fukushima has decided to turn up the
13 crank and they are going full bore on
14 installation of full vortex. Let's do it here
15 in New York. Let's do it here. Thank you.

16 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much, sir.

17 You're on.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: All right. Thank you.

19 MR. RHODES: Erin Carr.

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes, sir. Thank you for
21 this opportunity. I know it's been a long day,
22 I'm sure for you, so I will try to keep it
23 quick here. I'm a student at ESF. I'm
24 studying renewable energy. And I see through
25 the studies that there's -- there's a way to do

1 this that will work. We can get ourselves out
2 of fossil fuels. The energy plan that you have
3 is not -- does not change business as usual.
4 We're not providing a path to clean energy.
5 Instead, we're investing in a dying resource
6 base. Wind has an amazing potential here in
7 New York. Let's get on board with innovative
8 stuff, such as Texas. They have a slightly
9 better wind resource space, they're maximizing
10 its potential, we can do the same. Solar is
11 also a viable resources here in New York. New
12 York City is full of rooftops and skyscrapers
13 that can effectively use solar where it is most
14 extensive to various buildings that attach to
15 it. Again, maximizing potential. Biomass is
16 also a good option. While some of my
17 environmental counterparts may disagree on
18 this, it's up in the air I'm sure, there's a
19 way to maximize this resource as well. Energy
20 crops can be done on marginal farmland. And
21 our forest and subculture practices have
22 improved, so why -- we can imagine our forces
23 in a sustainability manner. When biomass is
24 used it combines heat and power systems. It
25 can provide high efficiency, clean burning

1 boiler systems. Another way to look at energy
2 comes from carbon sequestered in the growing
3 and released in the burning. I understand this
4 is not necessarily carbon neutral, but it's a
5 carbon cost as well. It is still much better
6 than mined resources. Mined resources, such as
7 fracking or tar, are a clear case of selling
8 those projects as jobs and energy to the US
9 citizens. When in reality the objective is to
10 restore. While there will be some benefits for
11 the jobs created, they're actually temporary.
12 This benefit will dry up over the subsequent
13 one to two decades. That leaves our children
14 and subsequent generations with no benefits
15 from this type of projects. Our brothers,
16 sisters, neighbors, children and grandchildren
17 are the people we should be considering when we
18 plan our energy future. The proposed plan
19 relies on more natural gas infrastructure,
20 especially to heat our homes. The only way to
21 provide this fuel source is to import fracked
22 gas or begin fracking in our backyards. This
23 industry is very dangerous and can be easily
24 compared to the gold boom in the 1800s. For
25 any boom, there is consequential bust which

1 equals busted towns and broken communities that
2 mining has consistently left behind. The
3 destruction to the earth and water where
4 extraction is happening is devastating to the
5 local communities which are effected. The scar
6 this leaves on our state is irreplaceable. The
7 10 to 20 years worth of productivity will take
8 hundreds of years to superficially repair. And
9 the affects of those fuels to our atmosphere
10 could be the tipping point in climate change.
11 We are hovering on dangerous ground.

12 The energy needed to construct the
13 infrastructure and extract the resource coupled
14 with the eventual burning of said resource will
15 be felt in our climate change story. The money
16 and investment potential is much better suited
17 to invest in sustainable use of renewable
18 technology. Renewable energy may cost as much
19 in energy terms as fracking. The difference is
20 that the jobs are sustainable. The destruction
21 left behind is minimal and the communities
22 affected will benefit and strengthen for
23 generations to come as a result of the
24 infrastructure.

25 Our society needs to change the way we

1 think. Band-Aids and quick fixes are very
2 short sighted and do not address the root of
3 the problems. Our fossil fuel resources have
4 an important role to play in the transition to
5 renewable energy. Sooner or later we will have
6 to switch. Fossil fuels are limited. Let's
7 use these fossil fuel resources that we have,
8 the infrastructure here right now. Don't
9 expand it anymore. Don't bring more in. Let's
10 use this efficiently as possible in direct
11 relation to growing renewable energy, not
12 danger those resources in irreplaceable ways.
13 It's time to make responsible decisions about
14 our energy future. Decisions that consider
15 where we stand as a society and decisions that
16 positively affect the future of our children
17 and foster our responsibility as a race to care
18 for our mother earth. Thank you.

19 MR. RHODES: Thank you very much.

20 So if there are no further speakers?

21 Thank you from all of us to ESF. And thank you
22 on behalf of the State Energy Planning Board,
23 Jared, myself and our two colleagues who
24 managed to stay here through six of the hours,
25 mike Snyder from the Department of State, James

1 Bays from Ag and Market. On behalf of all of
2 us, we thank you very much, you the commenters,
3 for your comments. You have made excellent
4 points and given us much to think about. We
5 have undertaken the development of the draft
6 SEP with great seriousness and it's important
7 that we hear comments and questions like yours
8 as we move to a final state.

9 Please remember that written comments can
10 be submitted on our website until April 30th,
11 Energyplan -- one word -- dot.ny.gov. Thank
12 you very much.

13 (Whereupon, the hearing was adjourned.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, LISA M. MIRANDA, a Court Reporter
and Notary Public in and for the State of
New York, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing
is a true and accurate transcript of my
stenographic notes in the above-entitled
matter.

Date: March 18, 2014.

Lisa M. Miranda

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