



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Thomas F. O'Mara

Senator O'Mara's weekly column 'From the Capitol' -- for the week of February 3, 2025 -- 'NY's energy plan still loaded with unanswered questions'

THOMAS F. O'MARA February 3, 2025

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Senator O'Mara offers his weekly perspective on many of the key challenges and issues facing the Legislature.

That's where it stands on the most critical public policy action underway in New York State. Unanswered questions that New Yorkers deserve to have answered.

Senator O'Mara offers his weekly perspective on many of the key challenges and issues facing the Legislature, as well as on legislative actions, local initiatives, state programs and

policies, and more. Stop back every Monday for Senator O'Mara's latest column...

This week, "NY's energy plan still loaded with unanswered questions"

Guest Column from



for the week of February 3, 2025

“NY’s energy plan still loaded with unanswered questions”

Public hearings on Governor Hochul’s proposed 2025-26 state budget were off to a quick start last week, especially on Day 2 when the Legislature’s fiscal committees focused on one of the fundamental debates facing New York: energy.

For many of us, New Yorkers deserve forthright and transparent answers to the key questions underlying what will be, if the state’s current [REDACTED] majority leaders continue to pursue this agenda, arguably the single most costly public policy ever approved. Consequently, we keep trying to zero in on answers to these key questions.

Since the approval of the “Community Leadership and Climate Protection Act” (CLCPA) in 2019 – the first year that Albany [REDACTED] majorities gained one-party control of all levers of state government – they haven’t stopped moving at world record speed to impose a zero-emissions way of life and economy on this entire state. Remember that New York State is already a leader on this front, accounting for just 0.4% of global emissions, and we can rightfully be proud of what we have accomplished. Yet the current actions being pursued will come with a devastating price tag and consequences for ratepayers and taxpayers, businesses and industries, school districts, farmers, and entire local economies.

Among the key questions that we’ve been asking are: If New York State continues to pursue, on our own and under the current strategy and timeline, a zero-emissions way of life and economy, will it ever have any impact whatsoever to buttress against a globally generated climate challenge? In other words, is it worth the risks and consequences to the state’s entire economy for New York State to keep pushing so far, so fast when whatever we do has (or could ever have) only a minimal, at best, impact on the global climate?

Once again, following testimony from several of the Hochul administration’s energy czars responsible for developing and implementing what’s recognized as one of the most far-reaching and radical energy plans underway, anywhere, we’re simply left with all the unanswered questions and concerns we started with.

