



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Mario R. Mattera

Senator Mattera Joins Senate Republican Conference And Labor Organizations To Urge Public To Reject Albany's Plan To Hike Energy Costs

MARIO R. MATTERA March 2, 2022

| ISSUE: [ENVIRONMENT](#), [LABOR](#), [NATURAL GAS](#), [SENATE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE](#), [FAMILIES](#)



Senator Mario R. Mattera and his colleagues in the New York State Senate Republican Conference today called on all New Yorkers to get involved and submit official public comment on the Climate Action Council's (CAC) draft Scoping Plan and its radical efforts to eliminate reliable, affordable sources of energy. Natural gas hookups and services, as well as those from propane and heating oil, are vital for New Yorkers – especially in rural communities and during harsh winters – and cutting off these dependable sources of energy would be costly to residents and businesses and ineffective on a global scale.

The CAC has released a blueprint to alter the state's energy plans, which includes:

No new gas service to existing buildings, beginning in 2024;

No natural gas within newly constructed buildings, beginning in 2024;

No new natural gas appliances for home heating, cooking, water heating, clothes drying beginning in 2030 and no gasoline-automobile sales by 2035;

Installing onsite solar or joining a community renewables program by 2040; and

Installing geothermal heating by 2040.

"As a labor leader, I know firsthand how policies crafted in Albany impact the hardworking men and women of our state. This plan will eliminate jobs our residents need and impact every New Yorker as they recover from the COVID-19 crisis. New York State needs to commit to working with our workers and labor organizations to find solutions that protect these workers and our state's families while safeguarding the environment since these goals are not mutually exclusive. Our workers are the lifeblood of our economy and we need to protect them and all of our residents," stated Senator Mattera.

"This Energy Affordability Crisis, fueled by the failed policies of One-Party Rule, is unaffordable, unforgiving, and unsustainable. The former administration and now Governor Hochul's administration are trying to rid the state of critical energy infrastructure sources such as natural gas hookups, which will only worsen the problem. This will be ultimately unaffordable for every day, common-sense New Yorkers, leaving them in the dark and in the cold. That's why it is essential that we make our voices heard and call out these unrealistic 'climate' plans, which will only further burden our communities," said Senate Republican Leader Rob Ortt.

“New York State is traveling at breakneck speed to radically remake New York’s energy future. It will be enormously expensive for state and local taxpayers, not to mention residential and business utility ratepayers. It holds far-reaching consequences for the state and local economies. People are going to be shocked when they’re hit in the pocketbook. We need a fuller discussion of what these actions potentially mean in the important context of feasibility, affordability, and reliability. At a cost of hundreds of billions of dollars to New Yorkers and untold costs to the economy, we are barreling full speed ahead to further crush the affordability of living for families, drive up the cost of doing business, and destroy economic opportunity,” said Senator Tom O’Mara, Ranking Member of the Senate Finance Committee.

“Soaring Inflation. Sky-High Energy Prices. Severe Pain at the Pump. Not to mention that the state has a pre-existing affordability crisis. All of these are reasons why we are witnessing a record exodus of our fellow New Yorkers. We must reverse course – and we can do this together. I strongly urge the public to make their voices heard on this radical Albany plan which will only hike the energy costs on New York families and businesses,” said Senator Alexis Weik.

“New York State’s pursuit of a zero-carbon future is a worthy goal, but the overall strategy and legislative mandates taken so far need a reality check. Over the past several years, the path taken has been fraught with severe risks to working New Yorkers and consumers, particularly the poor and elderly, who will continue to see escalating utility bills and less reliability. Legislation that’s been approved, and other bills pending, are creating a dangerous energy supply gap, causing prices to soar, and costing the state thousands of middle-class jobs,” said John J. Murphy, International Representative of the United Association of Journeymen & Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry of the United States and Canada.

"The New York state budget proposal, a must-pass piece of legislation that keeps the Empire State's government operating through the next fiscal year, is no place for a non-germane amendment that bans fossil fuels, and is yet again an attempt to force these policies under the radar and with little regard to what the ultimate aim of these policies will cost consumers. This is a proposal that needs to be debated on its own and in a transparent manner that ensures all New Yorkers have an opportunity to truly understand the implications of limiting their access to natural gas utilities," said Mark Valentini, Plumbing-Heating Cooling Contractors—National Association.

"New Yorkers for Affordable Energy is a not-for-profit organization that supports greater access to clean, reliable and affordable sources of energy for residential and business consumers. It is abundantly clear to our members that many New Yorkers aren't aware of the State's energy proposals aimed at eliminating access to natural gas. If New York outlaws gas equipment, many New Yorkers will soon get an unbearable financial shock. Replacing a gas furnace or water heater will no longer be affordable, leaving residents with a \$30,000 price tag to revamp their entire home energy system. This comes in the wake of already-skyrocketing energy costs, which are directly related to the state's efforts to limit use of natural gas. There must be a pragmatic, economic justice component to the State's plan to address climate change for the overall wellbeing of New York residents," said Michelle Hook, Executive Director, New Yorkers for Affordable Energy.

"Now it is critical that New Yorkers across the state comment on the Draft Scoping Plan so that climate policy recommendations can be made that are fair and balanced. The recent world events demonstrate that New York's energy resources must be abundant, clean, and affordable into the future. New Yorkers have the chance for their voices to be heard about how these policy recommendations will impact our daily lives," said Gavin Donohue, President & CEO, IPPNY.

“The fact is, New York’s climate goals can be reached with a balanced approach that uses a mix of energy sources without banning reliable and affordable natural gas and abandoning the natural gas system altogether, as advocated by many of the Plan’s proponents. By using an ‘all of the above’ approach – that is, renewables, efficient use of the natural gas delivery system for low and no-carbon fuels, and other technologies – we can meet the state’s emissions targets without causing the disruptions in reliability and resiliency that current studies show would occur if we cutover to electric power alone,” said Donna L. DeCarolus, President of National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation.

New York families continue to face extreme short- and long-term economic challenges, including:

Inflation – a 7.5 percent spike in consumer prices over last year, the highest since 1982 – including skyrocketing costs for transportation, food, and other essential goods and services;

Pain at the Pumps – average gas prices in the state have gone up by more than a dollar-per-gallon, or an estimated 39 percent increase from a year ago;

Rising Home Heating Costs – monthly average home heating oil prices have also risen by more than a dollar per gallon from a year ago, or an estimated 39 percent increase from a year ago;

Soaring Electric Bills – electric bills and rates have also gone through-the-roof across the state, with the price of electricity rising about 26% on Long Island from a year ago, an expected 46% increase this winter in the Hudson Valley, and some New York State Electric & Gas ratepayers have reported bills spiking 121% higher than the month before, for example. These skyrocketing increases in costs come from the rising cost of fuels internationally and follow the recent shutdown of the Indian Point Power Plant, which provided up to 25% of

New York City's electricity;

Declining Consumer Sentiment – since 2018, New Yorkers have become less optimistic about overall and future economic conditions, with recent concerns spiking over food and gas prices;

Overall Tax Burden – New York has the highest tax burden in the nation at 14.1 percent – without factoring in a plethora of other burdensome fees; and

Economic Freedom – New York has ranked last in the nation in terms of “economic and overall freedom” for years.

Residents have through April 30, 2022 to submit formal public comments on the proposed energy plan. Senate Republicans today encouraged hard-working residents and business owners to make their voices heard on these disastrous policies. New Yorkers can use this link to submit public comments by [clicking here](#).