February 9, 2022

Dear Assemblymember,

On behalf of the Coalition for Renewable Natural Gas (RNG Coalition), a member of the Clean Fuels NY Coalition, I am writing to voice our support for a New York Clean Fuel Standard (CFS) to be included in New York’s budget. Not only as a reflection of New York’s commitment to meet the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act’s (CLCPA) emission reduction requirements for the transportation sector in New York, but also to help improve the economic and health quality of the State.

Transportation is New York’s largest source of GHG emissions and growing. A clean fuel standard would accelerate the transition to clean fueled vehicles by creating a new revenue stream for fleet operators like the MTA and public transit agencies, for-hire vehicle companies and delivery companies. In 2019 alone, California’s clean fuel standard generated over $2.5 billion in value and over 15 million metric tons of annual GHG reductions.

A CFS is a technology-neutral, performance-based standard that requires fuel manufacturers and importers to reduce the carbon intensity of their fuels by a set amount, which in New York could be scaled to an aggressive enough target to help achieve the CLCPA goals. California and Oregon’s CFS has successfully reduced transportation emissions at negligible cost to consumers and no cost to the State government other than administering the program.

The New York CFS, could be modeled from legislation sponsored by Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner and Senator Kevin Parker (A. 862-A/S. 2952-A), that would have required manufacturers and importers of high-carbon intensity fuels like conventional gasoline and diesel to either reduce the carbon intensity of their fuels or purchase credits from low-carbon intensity fuel manufacturers and importers. The CFS will provide meaningful support, paid by polluters, for public transit agencies, school busses, delivery vans, and for-hire vehicle fleet operators to switch to ultra-low carbon, zero-carbon, and carbon-negative (better than zero) alternative fuels and vehicles, including electric, fuel cell, and CNG and LNG vehicles fueled by Renewable Natural Gas (RNG).

With the adoption of a CFS, we will see a significant improvement in public health, especially in our most vulnerable communities that live near highways and have been harmed by pollution
for decades. We can reduce exposure to harmful pollutants, saving billions of dollars in health costs and preventing premature deaths.

A Clean Fuel Standard would reduce transportation emissions by at least 20% over the next decade at no cost to the State of New York. This would mean significant progress toward meeting our obligations under the CLCPA, helping mass transit agencies across the state switch 100% of their bus fleets to zero emission by 2040, and reducing air pollution. This is an ambitious but achievable program that will reduce emissions, improve air quality, and create new jobs at no cost to the State.

We respectfully urge your support for a Clean fuels Standard to be included in your budget to pave the way for a cleaner, healthier New York.

Sincerely,

/s/

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