



March 13, 2026

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of the State of New York
Executive Chamber
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Governor Hochul:

We are calling on you to reconvene the Climate Action Council for the purpose of reviewing the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) and determining what changes are needed to restore energy affordability and ensure a reliable energy grid.

Since the passage of the CLCPA in 2019, electricity prices are up over 50% here in New York. This is not a coincidence. The mandates placed on utility companies have been borne by ratepayers, as was acknowledged in last year's budget hearing by the Chair of the Public Service Commission, Rory Christian. These costs have become unbearable for our residents. State policy has driven up energy bills to the point where people are being forced to choose between keeping the lights on and affording everything else. It is time for the Council to reconvene and amend the CLCPA to account for economic realities.

The statutory deadlines for achieving greenhouse gas emission reductions and renewable energy goals must be repealed. These deadlines were arbitrarily created without considering economic or technological considerations. Under the current greenhouse gas accounting standards, it will be nearly impossible for the State to achieve its emissions goals without startling economic impact. The people of New York would be better served by state policy focusing on continuing to advance a cleaner climate without haphazard, unachievable timeframes.

In addition to amending the CLCPA to make it more achievable, there must also be cost off-ramps so that the State can balance affordability with a cleaner climate.

The Cap and Invest program must be stopped as it will cost New Yorkers billions. The recently released memo from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority proves this. New York families cannot afford to pay an additional \$2.23 on a gallon of gas over the current price or an additional \$4,100 on their utility bill every year. If we are going to listen to the experts on climate change, we should listen to them when they tell us how expensive it will be.

Greenhouse gas emission accounting standards must be amended to adopt the United Nations' accounting method. Using the UN method would not only better reflect the progress we as a state have made towards lowering emissions but would also put businesses here in New York on a more level playing field with businesses in other states that have to reduce their emissions.

Finally, the CLCPA needs to reflect an all-of-the-above approach when it comes to energy policy. Renewable energy definitions need to consider sources such as nuclear and renewable natural gas. Peaker plants that provide critical reliability needs cannot be shuttered when grid capacity is already stretched thin. The State should emphasize building as much generation as possible so that we can drive down energy prices and climate policy must reflect that.

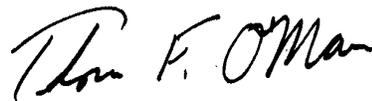
After the Council has been reconvened, we request that the Council release a report providing recommendations to the Legislature within 30 days so that we can deliver energy affordability to New Yorkers before session ends in June.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mario R. Mattera". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Senator Mario Mattera
Ranker, Energy & Telecommunications Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom F. O'Mara". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Senator Tom O'Mara
Member, Energy & Telecommunications Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Walczyk', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Senator Mark Walczyk
Member, Energy & Telecommunications Committee