



Anna Kathawala
Field Representative, Our Climate
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The Climate and Community Investment Act (CCIA) is not just a bill. It represents my future, the opportunities my generation will have, and lives we will be able to live. Without it, all of that looks bleak. Passing the CCIA is intrinsic in preserving my future and the future of my generation. The world I will inherit as an adult will be plagued by the consequences of climate change. Science has clearly told us that action is not only needed, but is crucial and that action cannot come in ten years or twenty years, but right now. We have a villain. We know who to blame. Corporate polluters have been taking advantage of tax breaks and cuts and used their outrageous wealth to continue dumping toxins into minority communities and degrading our environment. For years, we have been paying for their actions, through our healthcare bills and environmental cleanup costs. It is time for the tables to turn.

I was born and raised in Manhattan, an island very close to sea level. With current greenhouse gas emissions and the lack of responsibility corporate polluters are taking for them, Manhattan and the world I know will be a casualty of sea level rise. This is hard to imagine, but it is the future we face. The sea level on New York's coastline is a foot higher than it was in 1900, and parts of Manhattan and the greater New York City area are at severe flood risk. The increase in bigger, more frequent, and stronger storms and flooding will lead to more of the city becoming at risk of going underwater, leading to billions of dollars of damage and health care costs. Superstorm Sandy was a prime example of how intense storms and flooding can affect our public transportation and lead to billions in damage. Without the CCIA, the burden of these costs will fall on the people rather than corporate polluters who are primarily to blame.

A portion of the \$15 billion raised from corporate polluters in the CCIA will go towards adaptation infrastructure to help communities build resilience and prepare for the effects of climate change.

Regardless of how much we decrease our emissions by now, we have already committed ourselves to



certain impacts and need to be adequately prepared. Enhancing and building up this infrastructure would make an immense impact on how bad the damage will be.

As a student, the green infrastructure the CCIA will provide schools across the state is so beneficial. The New York City public school system alone has over 1.1 million students and 1,800 buildings, meaning clean energy and infrastructure used for these schools has real impact. The money from the CCIA will go towards zero-emissions school buses, creating higher quality jobs for school bus drivers, improving school energy efficiency. It will transition schools toward renewable energy, and will give priority to schools in disadvantaged communities. Electric buses will help to reduce the health impacts caused by pollution and climate change including reducing local asthma rates. Education is vital for young people, and when students across the city, no matter their background, can come to school in a building that runs on renewable energy with green infrastructure and is staffed by people with high quality jobs, their overall experience will be improved.

The CCIA is our chance to pave a path forward and set an example for the state and the nation. We have a chance to give back to those who have suffered for years because of the actions of corporate polluters, and we cannot throw that chance away. I strongly urge every member of the Senate and Assembly to co-sponsor this bill, raise support for it, and vote “yes” for it when the time comes. Thank you.