

**Testimony before the NY State Senate's Environmental Conservation Committee
CCIA Public Hearing on April 13, 2021**

**Submitted by Leslie Cagan, representing the Peoples Climate Movement-NY
April 12, 2021**

Thank you for convening this important hearing on the Climate and Community Investment Act. I am pleased to be here on behalf of one of the many organizations throughout the state who are actively supporting this legislation.

Today you are hearing many excellent presentations about the policy initiatives laid out in the bill, and in-depth information about how the passage and then implementation of this legislation will have a very positive impact on our state's ability to move off of fossil fuels and build a much more resilient and healthier renewable energy economy. Making the Climate and Community Investment Act the law in NY State will build on the work already underway since the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act was passed almost two years ago.

I am not going to repeat what others are saying. Instead, I want to remind you of the urgency of the moment and why enacting this legislation is so needed.

Very importantly, the specifics of the CCIA will help ensure that communities hardest hit by the climate crisis and other historic and ongoing assaults on our environment will be at the forefront of the energy transition that we must take on. There can be no doubt that climate justice will only be achieved when new policies are rooted in a deep commitment to racial and economic justice. These are not separate or unrelated concerns but rather it is the ways they are directly tied to each that must guide the steps we all need to take to tackle the very real climate crisis.

And indeed, there is a global climate crisis, and it gets worse with each passing day. There is no time left for further studies: the evidence is in and it's undisputable. The only questions are how we move off of fossil fuels, how we build a sustainable energy economy based on renewable energy sources, and how we work together to ensure a truly just transition...a transition grounded in justice. This is what the CCIA does.

The time for action - for bold, comprehensive, swift action - is now. People in every corner of this state are doing what we can to make sure you and your legislative colleagues get the message. The climate crisis is real, the need to take significant action to meet the crisis and avert complete disaster is urgent.

Many other New Yorkers would have liked to be at this hearing today. While that was not possible, countless numbers of people have already made their voices heard as they have been meeting with legislators and their staff and in many other ways. We are committed to continue to play our role in advancing the CCIA and doing what we can to ensure its passage in this legislative session. We are more than happy to do this in partnership with you and other elected officials and we hope that today's hearing is another step in what will be a major victory in our work to halt the climate crisis. We call on our State Senators to move quickly on the passage of the Climate and Community Invest Act.

Thank you.