



January 19, 2023

To the Members of the State Finance, Environmental Conservation, and Energy Committees:

On behalf of the more than 4,300 members of 350Brooklyn, I speak for our members when I thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to this hearing. I urge the members of these committees to give their wholehearted support to the full implementation of New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Law. Please ensure that those measures recommended by the Climate Action Council's Scoping Plan that entail action by the New York State Legislature are both enacted and fully funded, and to do so by passing the bills in NY Renews' Climate, Jobs, and Justice Package.

350Brooklyn is a member of NY Renews. We ourselves are a grassroots, member-driven organization, and just one of the more than 340 climate, labor, faith, and civic organizations from all over New York State that are part of the NY Renews coalition. All of our organizations are committed to ensuring that every New Yorker has full access to renewable energy at an affordable cost, that this transition to a renewable energy economy creates tens of thousands of green, family-supporting jobs, and that a minimum of 40% of the benefits of this transition flow to low-income New Yorkers, environmental justice communities, and displaced workers.

As a member of NY Renews, 350Brooklyn fully supports its Climate, Jobs and Justice Package. The bills in this package are key to implementing the CLCPA. The obligations undertaken by law per the CLCPA give us only a short time frame within which to accomplish much. **2023 must be the year** in which we create a fund dedicated to effective climate action, pass laws that make the path away from fossil fuel use mandatory and transparent to everyone, and align all state agencies with the mandates of the CLCPA. The bills proposed in the CJJJ all require good wages, benefits, and other characteristics of the careers that the energy transition promises. The outcome will be enormously beneficial to us all by lowering utility bills, protecting our air and water, creating unionized jobs in the clean energy sector, and giving all our children a future.

While this will be expensive, these investments will be returned to us a hundred-fold. This year we want the NYS budget to appropriate \$10B to kickstart this transformation and start bringing its benefits to every corner of the state. However, state spending on the energy transformation and on climate justice cannot rely on year-to-year appropriations. We all know who bears the heaviest responsibility for this crisis: fossil fuel companies and the ultra-wealthy whose massive wealth rests on the status quo. They have known for decades about the looming crisis disaster, yet have stalled effective action through disinformation campaigns. Going forward, NYS must hold them responsible for the harm they have done. Fossil fuel companies must recompense the state for past harms (the "polluter pays" principle) and the ultra-wealthy must pay to rectify

the damage they have done. Bills in the CJJP package would address this by setting up secure revenue streams that would fund the energy transition and equity going forward.

Adopting the Climate, Jobs and Justice package would advance both justice and the energy transition we need. It is a visionary set of proposals, one that sustains New York's position as a leader worldwide on climate action. The members of 350Brooklyn urge that your respective committees support its passage.

Our thanks to Senator Kruger, Senator Harckham, and Senator Parker for the seriousness with which they approach solutions to the climate crisis, and to the members of the Finance, Environmental Conservation, and Energy Committees for their attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Sara S. Gronim
Co-leader
350Brooklyn