March 2018

Dear Governor Cuomo and New York State Legislators,

As local officials in New York State, we have witnessed the human and economic devastation that worsening superstorms like Harvey, Maria, Irma, Sandy, Irene, and Lee have brought to Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and our state of New York. **Our public health, our economy, and our communities are at risk; we cannot wait any longer to act. Since the Federal Government is unwilling to do its job, New York can and must lead.**

As public servants, it is our duty to craft and execute policies to protect the families that we represent. We urge you to consider the following facts:

- This year may become the costliest mainland U.S. hurricane season on record, with already over $200 billion dollars in estimated damages.¹
- Superstorm Sandy alone cost our communities and New York State at least $32.8 billion.²
- More than $33 billion in public health costs and at least 4,000 deaths annually in New York State alone are associated with the burning of fossil fuels.³
- According to a NYSERDA study, climate damages may cost New Yorkers more than $10 billion annually, including from coastal flooding, agricultural disruption, and higher electricity costs from heatwave-driven blackouts.⁴

We have seen the human and economic losses to our businesses, farms, and municipalities from extreme weather that damages our infrastructure, disrupts lives, and jeopardizes water and food supplies. Taxpayers in our communities are spending billions to rebuild and prepare. However, the companies that are largely responsible for the climate and fossil fuel pollution crisis are not paying for the damages their activities cause.

**We call for strengthening state action to create tens of thousands of good jobs in all regions of our state by building the clean infrastructure we need now, for the benefit of people in every community:**

- Power New York with 100% clean renewable energy by 2050;
- Significantly scale up investment in wind, solar, and other renewable energy resources, which do not include nuclear or natural gas;
- Provide rebates and expand the network of public charging stations for electric cars, and invest in more efficient and reliable public transit;
- Save families and business owners money by investing in energy efficiency for residential and commercial buildings;
- Encourage the shift to air- and ground-source heat pumps for heating and cooling, and away from reliance on fossil fuel combustion; and protect communities most vulnerable to climate disasters by expanding investment in local resiliency and sustainability projects.

**We call on the State to fund these solutions by instituting a corporate polluter fee on oil, gas, and coal companies, so the companies pay their fair share for their pollution that threatens our health, our communities, and our climate.**

According to the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, placing a fee on climate pollution in New York starting at $35 per ton could generate over $7 billion
annually for state clean energy investments and create 145,000 jobs annually for our state, even while rebating 25-50% of revenues directly to New York families. In 2017, the IRS Office of Tax Analysis found that such proposals are workable, stimulate the economy, and can be structured to protect lower income groups.

To ensure we protect all New Yorkers, the per-ton fee should be assessed on all greenhouse gases, including methane, using the best available scientific measures of carbon dioxide equivalency. The fee should be levied as close to the source of pollution as possible, such as at the point of extraction for in-state fossil fuel production, on wholesale power purchase agreements, or point of importation of oil, natural gas, or other emissions sources into the state.

The fee must be structured to be progressive and not regressive, prioritize investments in working communities to create jobs and bring down energy costs, and protect and support low-income and working families.

If fossil fuel companies pay their fair share for the damage being done to our health and our climate, we can fund a green New Deal for New York and supercharge local economies across our state.

Therefore, we the undersigned local elected officials from across New York State call on the Governor and the Legislature to dramatically increase investment in clean renewable energy jobs and hold fossil fuel corporations accountable for their pollution, which threatens our health and safety.

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5 Pollin, Bob et al. (2017) “Clean Energy Investments in New York State: An Economic Framework for Promoting Climate Stabilization and Expanding Good Job Opportunities.” Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

* = former local elected official, at time of signature

David Kellogg
Town Supervisor
Adams

Fion MacCrea
Town Council
Alfred

Corey Ellis
President, Common Council
Albany

Richard S. Conti
President Pro Tempore;
Common Council, Ward 6
Albany

Dorcey Applys
Common Council, Ward 1
Albany

Joyce Love
Common Council, Ward 3
Albany

*Ronald Bailey
Common Council, Ward 3
Albany

Kelly Kimbrough
Common Council, Ward 4
Albany

Judy Doesschate,
Common Council, Ward 9
Albany

Owusu Anane
Common Council, Ward 10
Albany

Alfredo Balarin
Common Council, Ward 11
Albany

Merton Simpson
County Legislator, District 2
Albany County

Samuel I. Fein
County Legislator, District 6
Albany County

Doug Bullock
County Legislator, District 7
Albany County

Lynne Lekakis
County Legislator, District 8
Albany County

Raymond F. Joyce
County Legislator, District 13
Albany County

Paul Miller
County Legislator, District 32
Albany County

William Reinhardt
County Legislator, District 33
Albany County

Richard N. Touchette
County Legislator, District 37
Albany County

Victoria Plotsky
County Legislator, District 38
Albany County

Vickie Smith
Secretary, Albany School Board
Albany County

R. Dale Cole
Town Council
Andes

Christopher Cannon
Town Council
Arkwright

Tom Tkachuk
Town Council
Ava

Jacqueline Gordon
Town Council
Babylon (LI)

Terry Nelson
City Council, Ward 1
Beacon

Maureen Cunningham
Town Board
Bethlehem

Conrad Taylor
City Council, District 4
Binghamton

Robin Wilt
Town Board
Brighton

Eric L. Adams
Borough President
Brooklyn, New York City

Mary Kaminsky
County Legislator, District 14
Broome County

David Rivera
Majority Leader, Common Council, Niagara District
Buffalo

Joel Feroletto
Common Council, Delaware District
Buffalo

Klaus Proemmm
Village Trustee
Canton

Mark Witmer
Town Supervisor
Caroline

Brian Nowak
Town Council
Cheektowaga

Shawn Morse
Mayor
Cohoes

Jeff Katz
Mayor
Cooperstown
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ellen Tillapaugh</td>
<td>Deputy Mayor</td>
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<td>Bruce Maxson</td>
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<td>Cynthia Falk</td>
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<td>L.W. Allstadt</td>
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<td>Covert</td>
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<td>Hannah Black</td>
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<td>Ross Whitford</td>
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<td>Hollie Kennedy</td>
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<td>Frederick Ricci</td>
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<td>Debra Stapleton</td>
<td>Town Clerk</td>
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<td>Judith Beville</td>
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<td>Garrett Duquesne</td>
<td>Commissioner, Dept. of</td>
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<td>Thomas Delehanty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dorothy L. Goosby</td>
<td>Senior Councilwoman, Town</td>
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<td>Sylvia Cabana</td>
<td>Town Clerk</td>
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<td>*Michael O’Hara</td>
<td>Common Council</td>
<td>Hudson</td>
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<td>Tiffany Garriga</td>
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<td>Joan Cergol</td>
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<td>Anthony Del Plato</td>
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<td>Village of Interlaken</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ducson Nguyen</td>
<td>Common Council, Ward 2</td>
<td>City of Ithaca</td>
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<td>William Goodman</td>
<td>Town Supervisor</td>
<td>Ithaca</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Blais</td>
<td>Mayor</td>
<td>Lake George</td>
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<td>Anthony Eramo</td>
<td>President, City Council</td>
<td>Long Beach, Nassau County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mimi Pierre Johnson</td>
<td>Elmont Public Library Board of</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tammie Williams</td>
<td>Elmont Public Library Board of</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark Muoio</td>
<td>County Legislator, District 21</td>
<td>Monroe County</td>
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</table>
James Sheppard
County Legislator, District 23
(Rochester)
Monroe County

Ernest Flagler-Mitchell
County Legislator, District 29
(Rochester)
Monroe County

George Nikolados
Trustee
Monticello

Kevan Abrahams
County Legislator, District 1
Nassau County (LI)

Neil Bettez
Supervisor
New Paltz

Louis Trangucci
City Council, District 1
New Rochelle

Carlinna Rivera
City Council, District 2
New York City

*Rosie Mendez
City Council, District 2
New York City

Corey Johnson
City Council, District 3
New York City

Mark Levine
City Council, District 7
New York City

Bill Perkins
City Council, District 9
New York City

Daneek Miller
City Council, District 27
New York City

Donovan Richards
City Council, District 31
New York City

Antonio Reynoso
City Council, District 34
New York City

Rafael Espinal
City Council, District 37
New York City

Carlos Menchaca
City Council, District 38
New York City

Brad Lander
City Council, District 39
New York City

Justin Brannan
City Council, District 43
New York City

Jumaane Williams
City Council, District 45
New York City

Mary Frances Sabo
Town Board
North Greenbush

Charles Berman
Receiver of Taxes
North Hempstead (LI)

Peter Zuckerman
Town Council, District 2
North Hempstead (LI)

Viviana Russell
Town Council, District 1
North Hempstead (LI)

Wayne Wink
Town Clerk
North Hempstead (LI)

Don Hammond
Mayor
Nyack

James Sofranko
Town Council
Olive

Alan Cohen
City Council, Ward 1
Oneida

Michael Brown
County Legislator, District 12
(Rome)
Oneida County

Edward Welsh
County Legislator, District 19
(Utica)
Oneida County

Victoria Gearity
Mayor
Ossining

Quantel Bazemore
Trustee
Ossining

John Codman III
Trustee
Ossining

Robert Daraio
Trustee
Ossining

Meg Kiernan
Town Supervisor
Otsego

Bennett Sandler
Town Board
Otsego

Carina Franck
Town Board
Otsego

Thomas Hohensee
Town Board
Otsego

Gary Koutnik
County Legislator, District 11
(Oneonta City – Wards 1 & 2)
Otsego County
*Katherine Stuligross  
County Legislator, District 14  
(Oneonta City – Wards 7 & 8)  
Otsego County

Kathie Talbot  
Deputy Mayor  
Peekskill

Stephanie Townsend  
Town Board  
Pittsford

Kevin Beckford  
Town Board  
Pittsford

Rachelle Armstrong  
City Council, Ward 1  
Plattsburgh

Edmond Roberts  
Town Council  
Rhinebeck

Catherine Kent  
Town Council  
Riverhead (LI)

Loretta Scott  
President, City Council  
Rochester

Adam McFadden  
City Council, SW District  
Rochester

Molly Clifford  
City Council, NW District  
Rochester

Elaine Spaull  
City Council, East District  
Rochester

Jacklyn Ortiz  
City Council, At-Large  
Rochester

Mitchell D. Gruber  
City Council, At-Large  
Rochester

Willie Lightfood  
City Council, At-Large  
Rochester

Ramona Smith  
City Council – 4th Ward  
Rome

Allegra Shechter  
Town Council  
Roseboom

Jen Metzger  
Town Council  
Rosendale

John Zaccaro  
Mayor  
Saltaire

Michele Madigan  
Commissioner of Finance  
Saratoga Springs

John Franck  
Commissioner of Accounts  
Saratoga Springs

Leesa L. Perazzo  
President, City Council  
Schenectady

Jim Colligan  
Town Council  
Shelter Island (LI)

John Bouvier  
Town Council  
Southampton (LI)

Bruce Stafford  
Trustee  
Southampton (LI)

Bill Elsey  
Town Supervisor  
Springfield

Frank Hagen  
Deputy Mayor  
Suffern

Kara Hahn  
County Legislator, District 5  
Suffolk County (LI)

Robert Calarco  
County Legislator, District 7  
Suffolk County (LI)

DuWayne Gregory  
County Legislator, District 15  
Suffolk County (LI)

William Spencer  
County Legislator, District 18  
Suffolk County (LI)

William J. Lindsay III  
County Legislator, District 8  
Suffolk County (Long Island)

*Stephanie Miner  
Mayor  
Syracuse

Cheryl Rogers  
Town Clerk/Collector  
Taghkanic

Drew Fixell  
Mayor  
Tarrytown

Jenna Koch  
Council President  
Tonawanda

Manna Jo Greene  
County Legislator, District 19  
(Rosendale, Marbletown)  
Ulster County

James Delaune  
County Legislator, District 17  
(Esopus, New Paltz)  
Ulster County

Deanna Tompkins  
Town Clerk  
Urbana

Robert Palmieri  
Mayor  
Utica
Joseph A. Marino
Common Council, 4th District
Utica

Frank DiBrango, Jr.
Common Council, At-Large
Utica

*Jack Lom edico
Common Council, At-Large
Utica

Karen Tarapata
Mayor
Upper Nyack

Alex Hammond
Town Supervisor
Waddington

Christopher Johnson
County Legislator, District 16
(Yonkers)
Westchester County

Corozon Piñeda
City Council, District 2
Yonkers

Michael Sabatino
Majority Leader, City Council,
District 3
Yonkers