



January 27, 2021

Hon. Liz Krueger, Chair  
New York State Senate Finance Committee  
416 Capitol, Albany, NY 12247

Hon. Helene E. Weinstein, Chair  
New York State Assembly Ways & Means  
Committee  
LOB 923, Albany, NY 12248

Hon. Todd Kaminsky, Chair  
New York State Senate Environmental  
Conservation Committee  
LOB 307, Albany, NY 12247

Hon. Steve Englebright, Chair  
New York State Assembly Committee on  
Environmental Conservation  
LOB 621, Albany, NY 12248

**Re: NY Renews 2021-2022 Executive Budget Proposal Testimony to the Environmental Conservation Committee**

Dear Senator Krueger, Assemblywoman Weinstein, Senator Kaminsky and Assemblyman Englebright:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the Executive Budget today. This testimony is presented on behalf of NY Renews, a multi-sector coalition of over 250 member organizations, representing tens of thousands of New Yorkers across the state.

In 2019, the legislature was a critical leader in passing the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, which was supported by our coalition. It's clear that the CLCPA has already had huge impacts throughout the state, and New York has begun its journey to be the nation's climate leader.

However, there is work yet to be done. In the past year, hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers have lost their jobs, become ill, or even died because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The impacts on BIPOC New Yorkers have been particularly pronounced. At the same time, the climate crisis continues unabated, and it's ever more clear that the global climate emergency multiplies the threat of other crises and continues to over burden BIPOC communities.

Now, New York needs a climate, jobs, and justice recovery plan to our current overlapping crises, and to fully fund the implementation of the CLCPA. On this, the Executive Budget presented by the Governor falls short. Although the Governor's budget outlines big ideas, it does

not provide new revenue streams to act on climate justice. Without money, these proposals remain just that — ideas.

The answer is the Climate and Community Investment Act. By putting a penalty on pollution, the CCIA would raise \$15 billion per year that would be used to create hundreds of thousands of good jobs, transition every sector of our economy off of fossil fuels, and invest in Black, brown, and low-income communities bearing the brunt of the impacts of pollution and climate change. It would also protect workers and communities impacted by that transition. We urge the legislature, which led the charge to pass the CLCPA, to continue to lead on climate and justice by including the CCIA in its one-house budgets and in the budget of New York State.

Further, it is now New York law that any economy-wide transformation must include a goal that no less than 40% of climate action funds be specific and targeted investments in frontline communities. This was made clear in the CLCPA and has been included in the Biden-Harris climate plan and should be reflected in the budget now. These investments can provide near term relief for frontline communities and pave the way for further State and federal action. The legislature's one-house budgets must explicitly reflect the 40% goal and requirement. New York law, and federal policy, requires that climate and environmental justice be front and center in any climate policy. This is what New York leading on climate looks like.

We want to particularly laud the commitment on off shore wind and the key related announcement of NYSERDA's \$200 million investment award to South Brooklyn Marine Terminal in Sunset Park, Brooklyn to become an off-shore wind assembly and staging port for NYC and the region. Environmental justice organizations, led by our Steering Committee member UPROSE, have been fighting for this for years to implement a green re-industrialization of NYC's largest Significant Maritime Industrial Area. This will ultimately create thousands of local, well-paid climate jobs. We hope that this is just the start of the kinds of programs we envisioned in the CLCPA and wish to see blossom across the state: community-led programs to create good jobs and build out our renewable infrastructure in frontline communities.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the New York State budget. NY Renews is excited that the State continues to make climate a priority. We ask, however, that the State commits to funding a just transition by: (1) executing a just recovery, (2) including the CCIA in the Executive Budget and (3) explicitly living up to its mandated spending targets for climate and environmental justice.

Sincerely,

The NYRenews Steering Committee:

- 32BJ SEIU

- ALIGN - Alliance for a Greater New York
- Catskill Mountainkeeper
- Center For Working Families
- Citizen Action of New York
- Communications Workers of America District 1
- Environmental Advocates of NY
- GreenFaith
- Long Island Progressive Coalition
- NYC Environmental Justice Alliance
- Our Climate
- People's Climate Movement NY
- The Point CDC
- PUSH Buffalo
- Sierra Club
- Teamsters Joint Council 16
- UPROSE