

Dear Helene E. Weinstein,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the New York State budget.

In 2019, New York became a national climate leader by passing the CLCPA, which has already had a huge impact on our state and even federal policy.

But there is more work to be done. In the past year, we've seen the climate crisis continue unabated, while dealing with a devastating global pandemic and recession, which has hit frontline Black and brown communities first and worst. Our state needs a just transition to a renewable energy economy, and we need new revenue to put people back to work, build out renewable infrastructure, and invest in communities hit hardest by these overlapping crises.

We have a plan for that: the Climate and Community Investment Act (CCIA) would put a fee on pollution and raise \$15 billion per year. This money would be used to transition our economy to 100% renewable energy, invest in Black and brown communities most impacted by pollution and climate change, create 150,000 good jobs, and help people with their utility bills.

Given the recession and the multiple overlapping crises facing New Yorkers, it's clear we need new revenue for a just, green recovery. The CCIA would provide a consistent source of funding year over year to be used to create a just transition for New York.

The legislature was a champion for the CLCPA — we need you again to stand up for climate, jobs, and justice.

In addition, it is NY law that 40% of any state climate funds be spent specifically in frontline communities, largely BIPOC and low-income communities most impacted by climate change and pollution. This was made explicit in the CLCPA, and has influenced policy in other states and President Biden's climate plan. The budget approved this year must explicitly reflect the 40% goal and requirement. Climate justice must be front and center in our state's climate policy.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony. I hope we can count on your continued support of climate, jobs, and justice for New York.

Sincerely,

Elisa Evett

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