

Dear Helene E. Weinstein,

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

According to NYS ECL Article 71, Section 1941, polluters discharging harmful pollutants into our environment shall “be liable to the people of the state of New York for the actual costs incurred by or on behalf of the people of the state for the removal or neutralization of such liquid and for any and all reasonable measures taken or attempted to reduce, limit or diminish the extent or effect of such contravention.”

The various pollutants discharged into our environment requires work to prevent further contamination of our land and water resources and the adverse effects to our Black and brown communities.

Improved administration of ECL Article 71, Section 1941 will provide our state with revenue and additional resources to put people back to work, build a resource recovery infrastructure with renewable energy technology and invest in communities hit hardest by these polluters’ contaminants.

In addition, the Climate and Community Investment Act (CCIA) would put a fee on additional pollutants, especially petroleum compounds, 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.

Since the state government is reluctant to administer ECL Article 71, Section 1941, 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.

Therefore, persistent neglect of existing law requires the CCIA to attempt to raise revenue to protect us from continuous pollution permitted by existing public officials adversely accelerating our climate crisis and increasing debilitating public health conditions.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony. I hope we can count on your support of a sustainable ecology with jobs and justice for the people of New York.

Sincerely,
Michael McGlynn
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