



Written Testimony of Climate Justice Cornell in Regards to the January 27th Hearing on Environmental Conservation in the New York State Budget

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Honorable Chairman Krueger, Chairman Weinstein, and Members of the New York State Legislature,

My name is Zasu Scott and I am the Political Action Coordinator for Climate Justice Cornell, a student organization at Cornell University. As an organization, we successfully pushed Cornell to divest from fossil fuels, and are active in New York state politics. I respectfully submit this testimony on behalf of Climate Justice Cornell, and thank you for the opportunity to engage in the New York State budget process.

Climate Justice Cornell would like to express strong support for the Climate and Community Investment Act (CCIA). The 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, create 150,000 good jobs, help people pay their utility bills, and invest in the Black and brown communities most impacted by pollution and climate change.

Passing the CCIA is critical to fighting back against the intersecting crises New York faces today.

Covid-19, the consequent recession, growing income inequality, and the climate crisis have impacted everyone; but frontline Black and brown communities have been impacted first and worst. With these existential issues facing New Yorkers, it's clear we need new revenue to get people back to work, and to cleanse our economy and communities of the pollutants that have burdened our neighborhoods for decades. The CCIA would provide billions of dollars annually to put people back to work, build out renewable infrastructure, and invest in communities hit hardest by covid and climate change.

In addition, Climate Justice Cornell feels it is critical to center racial justice in climate action. We would like to thank the legislature for championing the CLCPA, and we would like to return to one of the CLCPA provisions that furthers racial justice. The CLCPA requires that 40% of state climate funds be spent specifically in frontline communities. It is absolutely essential that the final budget approved in 2021 explicitly reflect this 40% investment requirement. It's simple, we need to put our money where our mouth is when it comes to both climate justice and racial justice.

Overall, Climate Justice Cornell is proud of the ambitious equity and sustainability goals established in the CLCPA. We believe strongly that the CCIA is the next step towards achieving these goals. By passing the CCIA, New York state can continue as a national leader, setting the foundation for climate action both in other states and on a national scale.

Once again, Climate Justice Cornell would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in the New York State budget process.

Best regards,

Zasu Scott

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