



The Climate Reality Project: Capital Region, NY Chapter

Testimony to The Environmental Conservation Budget Hearing Executive Budget Appropriations for 2021 - 2022

The Honorable Liz Krueger, Chair, Senate Finance Committee and
The Honorable Helene Weinstein, Chair, Assembly Ways and Means Committee

Submitted by:

Laura Faulk and Sally Courtright

Co-Chairs of The Climate Reality Project: Capital Region, NY Chapter

The Climate Reality Project: Capital Region, NY Chapter is pleased to have the opportunity to submit this testimony to the Joint Budget Hearing for Environmental Conservation.

Our chapter is made up of over one hundred community members working in the Capital Region and the Northern Adirondack areas of New York State to raise awareness about the climate crisis and to advocate for just and equitable climate solutions. We are a member of the Sheridan Hollow Alliance for Renewable Energy. We support the following budget requests in order to address historic wrongs associated with the siting of polluting energy infrastructure in the Sheridan Hollow neighborhood, which powered the Capitol and Empire State Plaza for over a century, and to advance renewable energy solutions that help mitigate the climate crisis.

1. **\$600,000 for a study to convert the Capitol and Empire State Plaza Complex (Plaza) to renewable energy** with the goal of shutting down the Sheridan Avenue Plant (SASP) that pollutes the communities of Sheridan Hollow and Arbor Hill.
2. **\$250,000 for a study on how to transition the environmental justice communities of Sheridan Hollow and Arbor Hill to renewable energy communities.**
3. **\$88,000,000 reappropriation in the Office of General Services Budget to continue current renewable projects for the Plaza.**

Thank you for your time and for your consideration of this request. We believe it is consistent with the CLCPA and the state's goal to be a leader in addressing the climate crisis and in actively working for environmental justice.