

Comments submitted by Diana Strablow, Saranac Lake, NY 12983

February 10, 2023

2023 Joint Legislative Budget Hearing

Regarding: Environment and Housing

Dear NY State Legislators,

I am writing to urge you to include the:

- All-Electric Building Act S562A/A920,
- NY HEAT (Home Energy Affordable Transition) S2016,
- Energy Efficiency, Equity and Jobs Act S2469/A2655 and
- Renewable Heat Now 2023 Funding Proposals

in the NY 2023 legislative budget. Together this legislative and budget package will put NY on the path to affordable for all, healthy and sustainable homes and buildings. Through the 2019 CLCPA, NY put in place mandates to take on the climate crisis. Now it is time to turn those mandates into action. If we fail to take this on now, with new all electric construction beginning in 2024, we will fail to meet our GHG reduction mandates and fail on taking serious climate action. Catastrophe is unfolding, the climate can't wait. This job creating transition must take place with urgency yet thoughtfully, leaving no one behind. This package of bills and funding have been carefully crafted, to make this transition efficient, equitable and in line with the Climate Action Council Plan. Through the Energy Efficiency, Equity and Jobs Act S2469/A2655 we need to stop subsidizing the gas industry and instead make healthy all electric homes affordable for all.

I would also like to tell you of my personal experience with an air source heat pump in the coldest part of NY.

I live in Saranac Lake in the Adirondacks which is known to at times to be the coldest spot in the nation. If cold weather heat pumps can work here, they can work just fine anywhere in NY State. My new air sourced heat pump that was installed this fall, has performed excellently through the winter. It is rated to -15F and it has kept the whole house warm and cozy right down to -20F. It has worked even better than it was rated and expected to. Making the switch to a heat pump was the right choice for cold North Country weather.

It was the right choice for comfort *and* for affordability. The NY rebate, helped make the installation affordable for me, not costing any more than a fossil fuel based system and my monthly energy bill has been cut in half. Now the federal IRA incentives will make heat pumps even more affordable.

Here in the North Country, people generally heat with propane, oil, or inefficient electric baseboards which are all extremely expensive. My neighbors have expressed interest in getting off propane and

switching to heat pumps too. Some are looking for the added bonus of air conditioning that heat pumps provide. Now that I know how wonderfully my new heat pump has performed through the Saranac Lake cold winter I will be highly recommending the switch.

Just imagine if heat pumps were installed in all new construction with costs that are on par or less than fossil fuel powered systems. It would be such a cost savings for homeowners and would set NY on the path to meeting it's GHG reduction mandates.

Heat pumps work in the coldest part of NY State, right here in the Northern Adirondacks. The cost benefits are clear. The health benefits are clear. The reductions in greenhouse gas emissions are clear. The fact that we are on the brink of climate catastrophe is clear. The only thing not clear is why we would wait, why we would allow the fossil fuel industry to convince us to continue locking in new homes and buildings to obsolete fuels that are impacting our health, our finances and destroying life on this planet.

Respectfully submitted,

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