

TOWN OF DRYDEN

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT NEW YORK STATE BUDGET PROPOSALS AND LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE

WHEREAS, 2023 was the planet's warmest year on record, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and NOAA's Chief Scientist Dr. Sarah Kapnick stated, "We will continue to see records broken and extreme events grow until emissions go to zero. Government policy can address both emissions, but also actions to reduce climate impacts by building resilience"; and

WHEREAS, New York State is a leader in adopting policies and budgets to address this climate crisis, adopting the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) in 2019 and the Climate Action Council Scoping Plan in 2022 to meet the goals set forth in the CLCPA; and

WHEREAS, as documented in the 2022 Climate Plan, the cost of inaction on these goals exceeds the cost of action by more than \$115 billion; and

WHEREAS, Legislative action and budget measures are needed to implement the Climate Plan, make our state healthier, and help create an accessible clean-energy economy that will benefit the New Yorkers of today and tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Dryden received the Bronze Rating of the Climate Smart Certification from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in 2019 and is working to increase that rating from Bronze to Silver; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Dryden is a certified Clean Energy Community (CEC), a program of the New York State Energy Research and Developmental Authority (NYSERDA) that helps local governments reduce energy consumption and drive clean energy use in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the Town's sustainability actions are coordinated by the Town of Dryden's Climate Smart / Clean Energy Community Task Force; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that given the extreme urgency of the climate crisis and the need to take action wherever possible, on recommendation of the Climate Smart / Clean Energy Community Task Force, the Town Board urges New York State to adopt the following interrelated measures this year:

- **NY Home Energy Affordable Transition Act (S2016A/A4592A)** will give the Public Service Commission the authority and direction to align gas utilities and gas system planning with the CLCPA's emission reduction mandates. This bill will support Governor Hochul's proposed **Affordable Gas Transition Act**, protecting utility customers from bearing approximately \$200 million annually in unwarranted investments in fossil fuel infrastructure.
- **Just Energy Transition Act (S2935C/A4866C)** provides a plan to guide the replacement and redevelopment of at least 4 gigawatts of New York State's oldest and most polluting

fossil fuel facilities and sites by 2030, moving forward with the transition off fossil fuels per the CLCPA.

- **Climate Change Superfund Act (S2129A/A3351A)** makes the state's worst polluters – major oil companies – pay to repair and address the harm they've caused. The bill would require the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to assess and collect an annual fee from big oil companies that released over 1 billion tons of greenhouse gas emissions from 2000 to 2018 so that companies that caused the climate crisis pay for the costs, not taxpayers or ratepayers.
- **Green Affordable Pre-electrification (GAP) Fund (S8535/A9170)** will promote decarbonization by helping owners and tenants in residential properties to fix structural and building code defects that render the properties ineligible for climate change adaptation and resiliency project grants.
- **Stop Climate Polluter Handouts Act (S3389/A7949A)** will save taxpayers more than \$336 million annually by repealing certain tax exemptions and incentives that currently benefit the fossil fuel industry and encourage the use of fossil fuels.
- **Packaging Reduction including the Bigger Better Bottle Bill (S4246/A5332A) (S237B/A6353)** will require companies to pay for the management and recycling of their packaging waste, dramatically reducing the worthless plastic waste that will end up at local recycling facilities. The new funding from collected fees will help local governments support effective recycling of metal, paper, cardboard, and glass as well as reuse and refill programs such as dishwashing equipment in schools or public drinking water fountains.
- **Climate Education Bill (S278A/A1559A)** establishes a course or instruction and learning expectations on climate education in all of New York's public elementary and secondary schools.
- **Renewable Action Through Project Interconnection and Deployment (RAPID) Act (S8308B/A8808A)** would streamline the buildout of transmission infrastructure for a flexible, reliable, and clean grid.

RESOLVED, further, that copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, chairs of the Senate and Assembly Environmental Conservation Committees Senator Peter Harcham and Assemblymember Deborah Glick, Senator Lea Webb, Assemblymember Anna Kelles, and the New York State Association of Towns.