

Memorandum in Opposition

An Act to Weaken New York State's Greenhouse Gas Emission Accounting System

S6030 (Parker)

SUMMARY: The New York Climate Advocacy Project strongly opposes S6030 (Parker) on the grounds that it undermines New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) by allowing increased greenhouse gas emissions through the weakening of accounting rules to measure emissions, and by exempting emissions from biofuels and biomass from being included in the accounting. It is concerning that this bill was submitted just days before the New York State budget deadline without adequate time for community review or comment.

JUSTIFICATION: We are in the midst of a climate emergency that has already devastated communities around the world. Scientists warn that unless we take drastic measures now to limit greenhouse gas emissions, our children may not have a planet to live on. New York State has the means to take a leadership role in addressing climate action. We must not allow the fossil fuel industry's campaign to disrupt climate action through denial, delay, disinformation and promoting false solutions derail New York's emission reduction mandates in the CLCPA.

The proposed changes in accounting of methane emissions from a twenty-year to a one hundred-year timeframe will allow significant increases in short term emissions. Methane emissions account for about one-quarter of the total global warming effect today and have been surging since 2007. Dr. Lena Höglund-Isaksson of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis has stated that even temporary increases in methane emissions (like those permitted by this bill) could trigger irreversible climate disruption. The only purpose of this proposed change is to delay real limits on emissions and allow the industry to continue to profit from climate pollution.

In addition, the bill would exclude from the calculation of greenhouse gas emissions limits "from the combustion of... biomass and biofuels." There is no justification for a categorical exclusion of such emissions from the targets in the CLCPA, other than to promote the false solution of biofuels and weaken the climate law's ability to limit greenhouse gas emissions.

The fossil fuel industry and some utilities are mobilized and creating front groups to weaken New York's landmark climate law to allow them to continue to rake in profits at the expense of the next generation. New York's Scoping Plan was developed over two years with expert and community input. The Legislature and the Governor should not allow the industry to override the recommendations of the Scoping Plan.

New York Climate advocacy project strongly opposes this bill. The fossil fuel industry must not be allowed to dictate our climate policy.