

Sign-on letter to Governor Hochul to include NY HEAT Act in her 2024 proposed budget.

Governor Hochul, Pass NY HEAT

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany NY, 12224

August 11, 2023

Dear Governor Hochul,

The undersigned organizations, representing tens of thousands of New Yorkers from every region of the state, urge you to fully support the NY HEAT Act by including all of its provisions in your upcoming Executive Budget.

The NY HEAT Act aligns the Public Service Law with the 2019 Climate Act so that instead of compelling ratepayers to continue to invest in new gas distribution infrastructure, we can invest in the efficient and clean electric home energy solutions called for in the Climate Action Plan. The obligation to serve and the 100-foot rule are obstacles to progress in the energy transition. Every gas utility in the state is projecting increasing spending on gas infrastructure in the coming decade totaling a billion dollars a year, thereby increasing costs borne by ratepayers. NY HEAT enables utilities to invest in neighborhood-scale clean heating and cooling projects while mitigating rate increases for remaining gas customers. Any further delay in passing the NY HEAT Act puts us further behind in realistically achieving meaningful emissions reductions in the building sector.

The NY HEAT Act also contains an energy affordability guarantee, capping utility bills at 6% of income for low and moderate income households. Without this provision, the planned energy transition risks falling on the shoulders of those most harmed by our extractive energy system and least able to pay.

Support for the NY HEAT Act has never been stronger. The bill passed the State Senate and enjoys strong support in the Assembly with 67 co-sponsors (and counting). More than 100 organizations have submitted memos of support for this bill and hundreds of New Yorkers have made calls, sent letters and traveled to Albany to demand that the bill be passed.

The climate crisis is already having devastating impacts in New York. In the past few weeks alone New Yorkers have experienced extended periods of unbreathable air, oppressive heat, and torrential rain and flooding. The time for your leadership is now! We can't roll back the clock, but we can secure a healthier, safer future for our children and grandchildren.

Please make the NY HEAT Act your top climate and energy affordability priority for your upcoming Executive Budget.
Signed (List in Progress)