



MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

S.2016-A (Krueger) /A.4592-A (Fahy) NEW YORK HOME ENERGY AFFORDABLE TRANSITION (NY HEAT) ACT

The NYS Public Health Association urges you to support the New York Home Energy Affordable Transition Act (NY HEAT), S.2016-A/A.4592-A. We are a 700-member organization of New York State public health professionals in government, non-profit organizations, healthcare, business, academia, and education.

NYSPPHA cares deeply about the dire and worsening effects on public health, of extreme weather caused by increasing Green House Gas (GHG) emissions. Scientific evidence shows that GHG's are sickening, and even killing us! People at all socioeconomic levels, but especially in Black, Brown, and low-income communities, are suffering, increasingly, from asthma, heart and lung disease, heatstroke, vector-borne diseases, trauma, and mental illness. We need ACTION NOW to eliminate fossil fuels, the source of our harm, and move fairly and equitably toward a safe and clean environment.

NYSPPHA joins NYRenews, a 370-member coalition and the force behind NYS's progressive climate law, the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), in urgently supporting the immediate passage of S.2016-A/A.4592-A, NY HEAT Act (the "Act"). The NY HEAT Act will give the Public Service Commission (PSC) the authority and direction to align gas utility regulations and system planning with the Climate Act's emission reduction and climate justice mandates.

In New York, about two-thirds of gas is delivered by gas utilities and used in buildings, making it one of the three greatest sector emitters of greenhouse gasses in the state. New York's Public Service Law includes several amendments that conflict with NY's Climate Act. NY HEAT Act sets clear guidance to achieve the Climate Act's mandates and ensure workers are protected during the transition. Stopping multi-billion dollar annual investments in gas infrastructure will free up funds to support the transition to neighborhood decarbonization projects and make affordable electricity and heat a reality.

As part of NY Renews' Climate, Jobs & Justice Package, this bill provides state regulation and oversight of gas utilities to realize the climate justice and emission reduction mandates established by the CLCPA. This bill resolves conflicts between Public Service Law and the CLCPA, ensures that the greenhouse gas emissions and climate justice mandates—alongside reliability and safety—are core planning criteria at the Public Service Commission, and removes subsidies for new gas hookups to stop incentivizing gas expansion. It also enables the neighborhood-scale projects we'll need to meet the mandates of the CLCPA, transitions gas workers by reforming the obligation to serve gas, and protects energy affordability by managing the transition and codifying a no-more-than 6 percent energy burden.

We urge you to demonstrate real climate leadership in New York State and pass the NY HEAT Act.

For more information, contact advocacy@NYSPHA.org