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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

June 4, 2019

Members of the New York State Senate and Assembly  
The State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12247

Dear New York State Legislator,

I am writing to express my support for efforts to pass bold, visionary climate and environmental justice legislation during this session of the New York State Legislature, as envisioned by the Climate and Community Protection Act and Governor Cuomo's proposal to achieve zero-emission electricity generation in New York by 2040. The Climate and Community Protection Act provides a binding framework to eliminate economy-wide carbon emissions generated in our state, while also providing essential support to communities that are on the front lines of the climate crisis and endure the most acute impacts from pollution.

As an early and steadfast supporter of the Green New Deal in Congress, I believe it is critical for states to also develop and enact policies that will begin to transform our economy, transition to clean and renewable, and zero emissions energy sources, and create good-paying jobs for all communities and workers. Given our current policy deadlock on climate change at the federal level, leadership at the state level is critically important if we are going to achieve what the scientists tell us we must do to prevent the worst impacts of climate change, which is to dramatically reduce and eliminate carbon emissions before mid-century.

I also believe that the strategies that we enact to reduce emissions must also be developed and carried out in an inclusive manner that ensures that we are investing in communities that have been left behind. This includes cleaning up legacy pollution and preventing future pollution in environmental justice communities, and prioritizing investments in job creation for the workers who live there. Low-income communities and communities of color have historically endured the greatest impacts from pollution, and they face disproportionate risks from climate change. I hear their collective voice and stand with those frontline neighborhoods and communities in the transition away from fossil fuels and economy-wide carbon emissions. I applaud the environmental justice provisions of the Climate and Community Protection Act, including the Climate Justice Working Group and requirement to direct 40% of energy investments to frontline communities. These policies are designed to address these systemic problems and ensure that the people who live in disadvantaged communities have a central and meaningful role in New York's transition to a green economy.

As New Yorkers, I know you have the courage to lead with conviction and do big things. I am aware that good faith negotiations are under way to strengthen and improve the Climate and Community Protection Act, and I hope that all parties will come together to reach an agreement to incorporate improvements to the legislation and get it signed into law this year. Completing negotiations to improve the Climate and Community Protection Act and enact it into law will put

New York State on the path to eliminating carbon emissions while creating thousands of good paying jobs in every corner of our state. New York can be a model for the nation, and there is no time to waste any if we are going to prevent the worst impacts of climate change. It is my sincere hope that New York State will not lose the opportunity to lead by example.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kirsten Gillibrand". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator