



February 4, 2019

Hon. Todd Kaminsky
Chair, Environmental Conservation Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 307
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Chairman Kaminsky:

I write on behalf of Unshackle Upstate, a non-partisan, pro-taxpayer, pro-economic growth, education and advocacy coalition made up of business and trade organizations from Upstate New York regarding the scheduled hearings on the Climate & Community Protection Act ("CCPA").

In the hearing announcement, you state the need to "ensure the voices of all New Yorkers are heard" during the drafting of this legislation. Unshackle Upstate fully supports that position, which is why we strongly urge the committee to consider additional hearings across Upstate New York. At present, the only Upstate hearing on this legislation is scheduled in Albany – limiting opportunity for input from Western New York, the Finger Lakes, Southern Tier, North Country and Central New York regions.

This legislation would have a tremendous impact on Upstate New York, significantly increasing energy costs for businesses and ratepayers. Much of Upstate's private sector employment is in manufacturing and agriculture. These energy-intensive industries are already facing tremendous strain, adding increased energy costs will make New York even less competitive and lead to further outmigration of jobs and population.

Additionally, individual ratepayers face potentially hundreds of dollars in increased utility costs per household. Many Upstate communities already face dire population trends, these additional costs will only further incentivize residence to leave the state.

Unshackle Upstate supports increased renewable energy as an important part of our energy portfolio. We must consider, however, the impact this legislation will have on an already struggling Upstate economy. To ensure our voices are heard, we strongly urge the Senate to consider additional hearings in Upstate New York to better understand how the CCPA will impact our state's diverse communities.

On behalf of Unshackle Upstate, and businesses and ratepayers across Upstate New York, I thank you in advance for considering this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Kracker".

Michael Kracker
Executive Director
Unshackle Upstate