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Date: March 31, 2023

To: Governor Kathy Hochul, Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Speaker Carl E. Heastie, Senator Peter Harckham, Assemblymember Deborah Glick

Re: Opposition to S6030

MEMORANDUM OF OPPOSITION

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW YORK STATE OPPOSES AMENDING THE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND PUBLIC SERVICE LAW, IN RELATION TO THE STATE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION ACCOUNTING SYSTEM (S6030)

In 2019, the New York State legislature passed the landmark Climate Leadership and Community Protected Act (CLCPA or Climate Act) which measures greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions using a 20-year time frame. Heat trapping methane emissions, which account for approximately one-quarter of global warming effects today, present the greatest planetary harm in the first 20 years after release. This measurement standard received appropriate attention in connection with drafting the Climate Act and constitutes a critical feature of the law.

The League of Women Voters of New York State (the NYS League) consistent with its adoption of a Declaration of Climate Emergency has committed to advocate for an emergency response to climate change and the broader ecological effects. This approach involves, at its core, carbon drawdown at emergency speed, as reflected in the CLCPA.

With the foregoing as context, the NYS League opposes the recently proposed Senate Bill 6030 relating to New York's greenhouse gas emissions accounting system, which if enacted would measure emissions using a 100-year calculation masking the actual damage to our climate and thereby strip New York of its commendable leadership of the State's environmental and equitably directed advances reflected in the Climate Act by delaying harmful emissions reductions and prolonging unacceptable conditions that pollute, provoke extreme weather and could potentially trigger irreversible climate effects.

The role of human generated GHG must be addressed aggressively without interruption as holistically as possible. This includes accounting for biofuels and biomass toward GHG limits in the CLCPA in contrast to proposed S6030 which would exclude carbon dioxide emissions "the combustion of ...biomass and biofuels" from the calculation of GHG emissions in the CLCPA.

To our legislators and Governor Hochul, the road to stewarding Earth and its long-term hospitality for our planet's citizens, future generations, biodiverse animal and plant life, not to mention our food supply, demands that New York stay the course as laid out in the Climate Act and reject this and any further legislation, the effect of which would slow down our progress to address the climate emergency. Reject S6030 and any similarly proposed progeny.