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April 8, 2026

To: The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader and President Pro-Tempore Andrea Stewart Cousins, Speaker Carl Heastie

CC: Senator Peter Harckham, Chair, Senate Environmental Committee and Assemblymember Deborah J. Glick, Chair, NY Assembly Environmental Committee

Dear Governor Hochul, Speaker Heastie, and Majority Leader Stewart Cousins:

The League of Women Voters of New York State supported passage of the 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) and continues to advocate for policymaking and legislation consistent with achieving the goals of the CLCPA.

At its June 2021 convention, the League of Women Voters of New York State unanimously adopted a resolution declaring climate change an emergency. The National League of Women Voters has likewise declared climate change an emergency. As the years have passed, scientists regularly report on the need to act deliberately to meet the ever-escalating climate crisis, as the CLCPA is intended to do. The [NYS Climate Impacts Assessment Report of 2024](#) provides a science-based analysis of what to expect from climate change in New York. The Report abstract states, “Temperatures are rising, precipitation is increasing, sea levels are rising, and extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and severe. Over time, these changes are projected to worsen.” Extending the timelines and the accounting standard of the CLCPA runs contrary to “the multitude of climate impacts posing risks to every one of the state's economic sectors, industries, natural systems, communities, and regions” reflected in the Report.

A delay in implementing the climate law is saddling New Yorkers with excess expenditures on a fossil fuel system we're set to retire. In contrast, building out the State's transmission infrastructure and renewable energy generation potential will give New Yorkers control over our energy production, protecting us from future price shocks. Most importantly, taking action to avoid climate destabilization will protect New Yorkers from the preventable costs of recovery resulting from climate-driven damage. In dollars and cents, the CLCPA Scoping Plan pegs the increased costs of inaction as more than \$115B, a financial burden New Yorkers should not be expected to pay.

The League strenuously objects to any contemplated policymaking or legislation on your part that either permits human or computer-generated activity that could reasonably be expected to contribute to a warming climate or otherwise retreats from decisions embodied in the CLCPA intended to responsibly address the evolving climate crisis.

The League therefore urges you as New York's leaders to act in the best interests of your current constituents and future generations with courage and vigilance by adhering to the goals of the CLCPA.

Sincerely,

Erica Smitka
Executive Director
League of Women Voters of New York State

Elisabeth Radow
Environmental Chair
League of Women Voters of New York State