

2019 Memorandum in Support

Bill: A3876 by Assemblymember Englebright and S2992 by Senator Kaminsky

Title: Enacts the Climate and Community Protection Act.

The Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) Supports this Legislation.

This legislation amends the environmental conservation law, the public service law, the public authorities law, the labor law and the community risk and resiliency act, in relation to establishing the New York state climate and community protection act.¹ The Climate and Community Protection Act establishes the New York State Climate Action Council and the Climate Change Working Group; requires the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to establish greenhouse gas reporting requirements; requires statewide greenhouse gas emission limits with regs to achieve reductions and regular reporting on progress; requires the development of a report on barriers and opportunities for disadvantaged communities regarding renewable energy generation, low emission transportation and energy efficiency investments; takes actions to promote adaption and resilience; identifies disadvantaged communities for the purposes of co-pollutant and greenhouse gas emissions reductions and the allocation of certain investments; authorizes monies from the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) to be used to establish and implement easily-replicated renewable energy projects, including solar arrays, heat pumps and wind turbines in public low-income housing in suburban, urban and rural areas; and requires that fifty percent of the electric generation secured by load serving entities regulated by the Public Service Commission (PSC), the Power Authority of the State of New York (PASNY), and the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) be produced by renewable energy systems by 2030.

In October 2018 the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a critical report warning that we have only 12 years to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions to limit temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius without facing severe global consequences. This legislation does much to advance New York State and its citizens towards the goal of limiting a global temperature increase while also protecting disadvantaged communities.

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¹ <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2019/a3876>