

June 4, 2021

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins
172 State Street, Capitol Building
Room 330
Albany, NY 12247

Senator Liz Krueger, Chair of Finance Committee
172 State Street, Capitol Building
Room 416 CAP
Albany, NY 12247

Senator Kevin Parker, Chairman of Committee on Energy and Telecommunications
172 State Street, Capitol Building
Room 504C
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Senator Krueger, and Senator Parker:

Thank you for your dedicated service to our state and all your tireless work this year in helping the people of this state get through the pandemic. As New Yorkers concerned with climate change, we write to you today to ask you to please vote no on the Public Service Commission (PSC) appointments of David Valesky, former New York State Senator and former member of the Independent Democratic Conference, and John Maggiore, a Senior Advisor to the Governor. We are deeply disappointed that Governor Cuomo nominated these two men who lack the necessary experience and expertise in the field of energy and the environment for this body that is integral to every major decision made regarding our state's electricity grid, utilities, renewable energy and the phasing out of fossil fuels.

After enactment of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), we were hopeful that New York would lead the country in the transition to renewable energy, yet the true impact of this legislation will only be achieved and felt if it is implemented. Nominating two people who have little to no relevant experience to bring to the difficult and complicated task of achieving the ambitious goals of the CLCPA would be a detriment to the New Yorkers who fund these positions that are both 6-year terms. The decisions made by members of the PSC are both technical and visionary. The task ahead requires us to re-envision and re-build our energy system free of fossil fuels while managing the transition in a way that supports affordable energy and a just transition. These positions must be filled by people who can make the state a leader on climate and clean energy. In fact, our lives depend on it. There are many people who are ready for this challenge. We hope that after you have voted down these unqualified nominations that Governor Cuomo will take a second look at people who can do this job justice and have the experience and knowledge that it requires.

Sincerely,

350Brooklyn
Sara Gronim, Co-Leader
Brooklyn, NY

350NYC

Dorian Fulvio, Member
New York, NY

ALIGN

Maritza Silva-Farrell, Executive Director
New York, NY

All Our Energy

George Povall, Executive Director
Point Lookout, NY

Alliance for a Green Economy

Jessica Azulay, Executive Director
Syracuse, NY

Big Reuse

Justin Green, Executive Director
Brooklyn, NY

Brooklyn For Peace

Charlotte Phillips, Chairperson
Brooklyn, NY

Broome Tioga Green Party

Rick Sprout, Chair
Endicott, NY

Campaign for Renewable Energy

Sara Hess, Convener
Ithaca, NY

Catskill Mountainkeeper

Kathleen Nolan, Senior Research Director
Livingston Manor, NY

CDDSA (Capital District DSA)

Kacee Womack, Branch Secretary, Co-Greene
Greenville, NY

Church Women United in New York State

Mary Smith, Communications Director
Rochester, NY

Citizen Action of New York

Bob Cohen, Policy Director
Albany, NY

Citizens' Environmental Coalition

Barbara Warren, RN, MS, Executive Director
Cuddebackville, NY

Climate Change Awareness and Action
Katherine Burns, Member
Syracuse, NY

Climate Justice Cornell
Zasu Scott, Political Action Organizer
Ithaca, NY

Climate Smart Philipstown
Krystal Ford, Climate Smart Coordinator
Philipstown, NY

CNY Solidarity Coalition
Peter McCarthy, Coordinating Committee Member
Syracuse, NY

CNY Solidarity Coalition Climate Justice Committee
Katherine Burns, CNY Solidarity Coalition Climate Justice Committee Chair
Otisco, NY

Coalition to Protect New York
Maura Stephens, Co-Founder
Spencer, NY

Community Advocates for a Sustainable Environment
Becky Meier, Co-Founder
Canaan, NY

Concerned Health Professionals of New York
Carmi Orenstein, Program Director
Ithaca, NY

Concerned Residents of Oxford
Daniel Taylor, Co-Founder
Oxford, NY

Council on Intelligent Energy & Conservation Policy
Michel Lee, Chair
Scarsdale, NY

Environmental Advocates NY
Conor Bambrick, Director of Climate Policy
Albany, NY

Food & Water Watch
Alex Beauchamp, Northeast Region Director
Brooklyn, NY

Former EPA Regional Administrator
Judith Enck, Former EPA Regional Administrator
Poestenkill, NY

Fossil Free Tompkins
Irene Weiser, Coordinator
Brooktondale, NY

Fruit Belt Advisory Council
Dennice Barr, President
Buffalo, NY

Gas Free Seneca
Yvonne Taylor, Vice President
Burdett, NY

Good Old Lower East Side
Damaris Reyes, Executive Director
New York, NY

Grassroots Environmental Education
Patti Wood, Executive Director
White Plains, NY

Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition
Rabbi Michael Feinberg, Executive Director
New York, NY

Green Education and Legal Fund
Mark Dunlea, Chair
Poestenkill, NY

HabitatMap
Michael Heimbinder, Executive Director
Brooklyn, NY

HeatSmart Tompkins
Brian Eden, Board Chair
Ithaca, NY

IPSEC
Judy Allen, Member
Putnam Valley, NY

Long Island Progressive Coalition
Lisa Tyson, Director
Massapequa, NY

Massachusetts Avenue Project Inc.
Diane Picard, Executive Director
Buffalo, NY

Metro Justice
Mohini Sharma, Organizing Director
Rochester, NY

Mothers Out Front ADK
Monique Weston, Co-Coordinator, Adirondack Mothers Out Front
Keene, NY

Mothers Out Front Dutchess County
Caroline Fenner, Communications & Outreach
Poughkeepsie, NY

Mothers Out Front NY
Billii Roberti, Leadership Team Member
Huntington Station, NY

Mothers Out Front Westchester-Croton on Hudson/Ossining
Megan Dyer, Local Leader
Croton on Hudson, NY

Mothers Out Front Westchester Rivertowns
Amy Hill, Team Co-Coordinator
Tarrytown, NY

Mothers Out Front- Long Island
Jennifer Brown, Team Leader
Huntington Station, NY

Mothers Out Front, Chemung County
Lisa Marshall, Volunteer Leader
Horseheads, NY

Mothers Out Front, Tompkins County
Merrill Hurst, Team Member
Trumansburg, NY

Nassau County Democratic Socialists of America
Charles Nieves, Ecosocialist Working Group Co-Chair, Communications Co-Chair, and member
of Steering Committee
Massapequa, NY

Nassau Hiking & Outdoor Club
Guy Jacob, Conservation Chair
Elmont, NY

Network for a Sustainable Tomorrow
Adam Flint, Director of Clean Energy Programs
Binghamton, NY

New Paltz Climate Action Coalition
Jessica Mullen, Chairperson
Kingston, NY

New York City Environmental Justice Alliance
Eddie Bautista, Executive Director
Brooklyn, NY

New York Communities for Change
Jonathan Westin, Executive Director
Brooklyn, NY

New York Interfaith Power and Light
Glenn Jacob, Executive Director
Lincolndale, NY

Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson
Jonathan Bix, Executive Director
Poughkeepsie, NY

NY Climate Advocacy Project
Ruth Foster, Director
East Greenbush, NY

NY Energy Democracy Alliance
Amber Johnson, Organizing Director
Bainbridge, NY

NY02 Indivisible
Elmer Flores, Group Leader
Brentwood, NY

NYC Democratic Socialists of America Ecosocialist Working Group
Amber Ruther, Organizing Committee Member
New York, NY

NYPAN Greene
Cari Gardner, Director
Athens, NY

NY Renews
Steering Committee
New York, NY

Open Buffalo
Franchelle Parker, Executive Director
Buffalo, NY

Our Climate
Jenille Scott, NY Field Organizer
Washington, DC

Partnership for the Public Good

Sarah Wooton, Community Researcher
Buffalo, NY

PAUSE – People of Albany United for Safe Energy
Diana Wright, Sign on Committee
Albany, NY

Peekskill Progressives
Jan Melillo, Co-Founder
Peekskill, NY

People for a Healthy Environment
Doug Couchon, President
Elmira, NY

Peoples Climate Movement - NY
Laurel Tumarkin, Organizer
Brooklyn, NY

PUSH Buffalo
Rahwa Ghirmatzion, Executive Director
Buffalo, NY

Ratepayer and Community Intervenors
Carol Chock, President
Ithaca, NY

Resist Spectra
Marie Inserra, Coordinator
Peekskill, NY

Rockland Water Coalition
Peggy Kurtz, Co-Founder
Rockland, NY

Safe Energy Rights Group
Courtney Williams, Co-Founder
Peekskill, NY

Sane Energy Project
Lee Ziesche, Community Engagement Coordinator
Brooklyn, NY

Save the Pine Bush
Grace Nichols, Collective Member
Albany, NY

SDIPN (Shut Down Indian Point Now)
Anthony Gronowicz, President
New York, NY

Seneca Lake Guardian, A Waterkeeper Alliance Affiliate
Joseph Campbell, President
Watkins Glen, NY

ShaleshockCNY
Linda Lenhardt, Member
Marietta, NY

Sisters of Charity Federation
Teresa Kotturan, Main NGO Representative at the UN
New York, NY

Solstice Initiative
Winslow Lewis, Program Coordinator
Cambridge, MA

South Asian Fund for Education, Scholarship and Training Inc.
Mazeda Uddin, CEO
Queens, NY

South Shore Audubon Society
Brien Weiner, President
Freeport, NY

Stop NY Fracked Gas Pipeline
Robert Connors, Co-Founder
Canaan, NY

Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion
Susan Van Dolsen, Co-Founder
Rye, NY

StopCricketValley.org
Bill Kish, Founding Member
Millerton, NY

Suffolk County DSA
Christian Araos, Electoral Working Group Co-Chair
Huntington Station, NY

Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development
Linda Reik, Board of Directors, Member
Huguenot, NY

Sunrise/XR Poughkeepsie
Olivia Page, Core Team Leader
Poughkeepsie, NY

Sustainable Hudson Valley
Melissa Everett, Executive Director
Rhinebeck, NY

Sustainable Tompkins, Inc.
Gay Nicholson, Sustainable Tompkins, Inc.
Ithaca, NY

Sustainable Warwick
Michael Helme, Steering Committee Member
Warwick, NY

Syracuse Peace Council
Carol Baum, Organizer
Syracuse, NY

Syracuse United Neighbors
Richard Puchalski, Executive Director
Syracuse, NY

Three Furies
Amanda Neville, Founder
Brooklyn, NY

Ulster Activists
Amy Kletter, Chair Environment Committee
New Paltz, NY

United For Clean Energy
Tina Volz-Bongar, Designated Sign-on Member
Peekskill, NY

UPROSE
Elizabeth Yeampierre, Executive Director
Brooklyn, NY

WE ACT for Environmental Justice
Yuwa Vosper, Environmental Policy & Advocacy Coordinator
New York, NY

WESPAC Foundation, Inc.
Nada Khader, Executive Director
White Plains, NY

Western New York Environmental Alliance
John Whitney, Chairperson
Buffalo, NY

Workers Center of Central New York
Jessica Maxwell, Executive Director
Syracuse, NY

CC: Members of the Senate Finance Committee

Senator Jamaal T. Bailey

Senator Brian A. Benjamin

Senator George M. Borrello

Senator Neil D. Breslin

Senator Leroy Comrie

Senator Patrick M. Gallivan

Senator Joseph A. Griffo

Senator Pete Harckham

Senator Brad Hoylman

Senator Timothy M. Kennedy

Senator John C. Liu

Senator Thomas F. O'Mara

Senator Patty Ritchie

Senator Gustavo Rivera

Senator Julia Salazar

Senator Diane J. Savino

Senator Sue Serino

Senator James Skoufis

Senator Toby Ann Stavisky

Senator James Tedisco

Senator Kevin Thomas