

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

cc: Rory Lancman
Special Council for Ratepayer Protection
NYS Department of Public Service
3 Empire State Plaza,
Albany, New York 12223

September 17, 2021

Dear Governor Hochul,

We, the undersigned elected officials, urge you to protect millions of New Yorkers and conduct a review of the recent Public Service Commission (PSC) order to approve a rate hike in the downstate National Grid territory that will force customers to pay for portions of the North Brooklyn Pipeline and hundreds of millions of dollars for other new fossil fuel projects being built or proposed for Staten Island, Brooklyn, Southeast Queens and Long Island.

We deeply appreciate your quick response to the devastating flooding caused by the remnants of Hurricane Ida and for directly naming the core cause - climate change.

In their order, the PSC correctly acknowledged that New York's groundbreaking climate law, the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) applies to rate cases, but then shockingly said that National Grid's gas sales growth plan and rate hike complies with the CLCPA despite having performed no greenhouse gas emissions accounting. Community organizations introduced significant evidence in the case that shows National Grid's projects disproportionately harm disadvantaged Black and Brown working class communities and that the company's overall rate plan goes in the wrong direction on greenhouse gas emissions, yet this evidence was ignored.

What's more disturbing is that the burden to submit evidence in this case and hold National Grid accountable fell on small nonprofits, community members and elected officials. During a two year rate case process, the Department of Public Service didn't do a single assessment of greenhouse gas emissions or impacts on environmental justice communities, and went as far as to say that the CLCPA didn't apply to them.

Dozens of New Yorkers unnecessarily lost their lives recently because for decades the fossil fuel industry perpetuated climate denial and the industry continues to delay the transition off fossil fuels. Too many members of our communities have lost their lives due to the health impacts of fossil fuel pollution yet National Grid is still greenwashing fracked gas to this day.

The PSC order continues a legacy of environmental racism and climate denial. What further cataclysm needs to take place before our state agencies will ensure the utilities comply with the law? Who will hold our state agencies accountable if not, you, the Governor?

At a time when we are seeing the impacts of climate change and New Yorkers owe nearly \$2 billion in unpaid debt to corporate utilities it is unconscionable to force 1.9 million customers to pay for new pipelines and other fracked gas projects. **Please uphold our state climate law, which was fought for and won by frontline communities, and conduct a swift and thorough review of the PSC August 12 order in the downstate National Grid rate case.**



Congressmember Carolyn B. Maloney



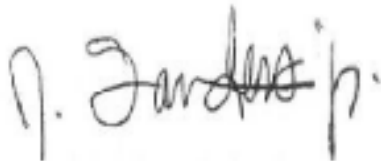
Senator Brian Kavanagh



Senator Julia Salazar



Senator Diane Savino



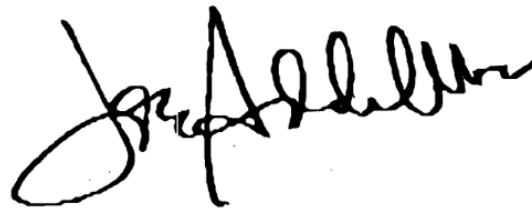
Senator James Sanders Jr



Senator Andrew Gouardes



Senator Jabari Brisport



Senator Joseph P Addabbo, Jr.



Senator Roxanne J. Persaud



Senator Liz Krueger



Senator Brad Hoylman



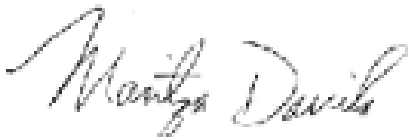
Assemblymember Charles Barron



Senator Leroy Comrie



Assemblymember Emily Gallagher



Assemblymember Maritza Davila



Assemblymember Alicia Hyndman



Assemblymember Latrice Walker



Assemblymember Robert Carroll



Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon



Assemblymember Marcela Mitaynes



Assemblymember Phara Souffrant
Forrest



Assemblymember Jessica
González-Rojas



Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal



Assemblymember Zohran K. Mamdani



Assemblymember Ron Kim



Assemblymember Judy Griffin



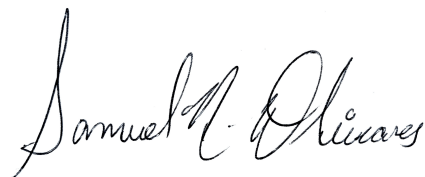
Councilmember Stephen Levin



Councilmember Antonio Reynoso



Councilmember Justin Brannan



District Leader Samuel Nemir Olivares

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District Leader Emile Bazile

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'K. Naplatarski'.

District Leader Kristina Naplatarski