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NYC-EJA Statement on Governor Hochul’s Proposed Changes to the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act

ALBANY, NY, March 20 - Governor Hochul has finally unveiled her long-anticipated blow to the people of New York. In an effort to gut the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), a law written originally to reverse the effects of climate change, clean up pollution, and reinvest in frontline communities, Hochul has proposed significant changes to the landmark law.

This week, the Governor publicly admitted to misleading the people of New York about the CLCPA. Contrary to the information her administration has spread, she has now confirmed that the CLCPA is **not** the cause behind increased utility costs – because the CLCPA has not yet been fully implemented.

Hochul’s foot-dragging, confusing narrative, and proposed changes to the CLCPA **benefits corporate polluters and fossil fuel entities while further harming the communities that are already being poisoned by these special interests.** The sooner we transition off gas and oil to build clean, renewable energy, the sooner people will see lower energy bills and healthier neighborhoods. In fact, when implemented properly, programs like cap-and-invest would [put money back into low-to-moderate income New Yorker’s pockets.](#)

The Governor’s proposed changes to the CLCPA will do nothing to lower energy costs for people today. She proposes to:

- Further delay issuing regulations to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions from 2024 to 2030;
- Stall greenhouse gas reduction mandates until 2040; and
- Weaken our methane gas standards to make gas look less harmful.

So then, **Governor Hochul. Whose side are you on? What are you fighting for?** “It’s too hard” is not a justification for walking away from the frontline communities of color the CLCPA was poised to protect – especially as the damage from Trump grows by the minute. If the Governor is going to move forward with “amending” this law, she might as well remove the word “leadership” in the process. Instead of using every tool the Governor has at her disposal to reduce energy bills today like cap-and-invest, she wants to keep the status quo of prioritizing billionaires and the fossil fuel industry over communities of color and everyday New Yorkers.

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