



**BEACON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES**

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Beacon City School District
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To whom it may concern:

As members of our school board, we would like to respond to the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act Draft Scoping Plan. We care very deeply about the future of our students - it is our duty to provide them with a foundation that will prepare them for successful lives. We feel that this responsibility extends to actively participating in solutions to the global climate emergency. We understand that school districts can be an impactful part of the solution to this crisis and, while we are encouraged that there is legislation that creates targets and goals for school districts to fight climate change, we are not able to meet those targets without significant additional funding.

Each year, we are tasked with presenting a budget to our public for approval. We create this budget mindful of the burden to the taxpayer and the restrictions created by our state tax cap while aiming to meet the needs of our students and families. Even though many of the facilities solutions to climate change would, in the long run, save our district money, we have found it impossible to meaningfully address the climate crisis through our budget given the large initial investment required. This is true for all school districts in New York, but especially for districts like ours, where state funding makes up a significant portion of our budget.

We struggle with this same problem when we address capital improvements. Last year, we pulled the most pressing items from our seemingly endless building conditions survey for a capital project. On the list were several aging boilers that needed replacing. While a new boiler is more energy efficient than an old boiler, we know that a complete phaseout of fossil fuels is what is needed to avoid the worst impacts of climate change and we were not able to give proper consideration to options that would heat our buildings without fossil fuels given our budget restrictions. The same is true for transportation: every year we replace several aging school buses but we are not able to afford the cost of climate friendly electric buses and the associated new infrastructure needed to support them. It is frustrating and heartbreaking to forgo these opportunities to improve our students' futures.

We see what a large part of the solution to the climate crisis our school district can be and therefore we ask for your support to electrify our buildings and transportation system.

With regards to the specific options in the Draft Scoping Plan, scenario 3 is the option. Zero emissions by 2040 is ambitious, but necessary. The best way to reach that goal is with a plan that includes a phaseout of fossil fuels that begins now, along with a rapid deployment of renewables.

Lastly, these targets and timelines are meaningless if we lack the means to legally enforce the mechanisms of compliance. Therefore, CLCPA must be enforceable as law with a commitment to provide the financial support to make it possible for organizations like ours to comply.

Respectfully submitted,

The Board of Education of the Beacon City School District