Resolution in support of
New York State Climate and Community Protection Act
Senate Bill S2992 (Todd Kaminsky) /Assembly Version A3876 (Steve Englebright)

Introduction: Global warming is reaching crisis proportions and creating havoc. The climate crisis is
directly caused by greenhouse gas emissions from the burning of fossil fuels. Superstorms, floods and
drought have hurt countless New Yorkers. If it continues, climate change will cause massive suffering due
to rising sea levels, food shortages, migration, and economic upheaval. If there is any hope for diverting
the worst impacts, the world must stop burning fossil fuels and transition to a renewable energy
economy.

The central goal of the December 2015 Paris Climate Agreement was to limit global temperature rise to
1.5 degrees Celsius. In order to accomplish this, 80% of all known fossil fuel reserves must be kept in the
ground. The Trump administration announced in 2017 that 90% of America’s offshore waters would be
open to oil and gas development, reversing an Obama-era ban on drilling.

The Green New Deal could combine with the Reforming the Energy Vision (REV), Governor Cuomo’s
comprehensive energy strategy and the banning all oil and gas extraction in NY — Onshore and Offshore.

Whereas, the new progressive New York State Senate now has the opportunity to not only block drilling
in NY’s offshore waters but to codify NY’s fracking ban, and

Whereas, New York State could take the legislative lead in fighting global warming and together with
stock divestment it is a winning strategy. In the U.S. House of Representatives, Democrats now have the
numbers to put climate change issues back on the congressional agenda. Already, over 1,000 institutions
throughout the world with portfolios totaling more than $8 TRILLION have pledged to divest from the
fossil fuel industry.¹ These include New York City, the nation of Ireland, hundreds of universities and
health institutions, among others, and

Whereas, state energy plan establishing clean energy goals for the year 2030 aimed at reducing
greenhouse gas emission levels by 40% from 1990 levels, including, but not limited to, increased access
to renewable energy, energy efficiency, weatherization, zero- and low-emission transportation, and
adaptation opportunities,² and

Whereas, there is no mention of the issues related to nuclear power and additional fossil fuel plants are
addressed in these bills unlike last years OFF Fossil Fuel Act (A5105/S5908),³ and

Whereas, the bill does address "renewable energy systems" that generate electricity or thermal energy
through use of the following technologies: solar thermal, photovoltaics, wind, hydroelectric, geothermal
electric, geothermal ground source heat, tidal energy, wave energy, ocean thermal, offshore wind and fuel
cells which do not utilize a fossil fuel resource in the process of generating electricity.
Be it resolved, that Village Independent Democrats call upon all elected representatives to immediately pass the Climate and Community Protection Act to protect our communities from climate disaster.

2. New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/Energy-Storage/Achieving-NY-Energy-Goals