



April 8, 2021

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor, State of New York
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

These last 12 months, more so than any other point in modern history, has sharply illustrated the fragility of our world. We've not only seen the worst public health pandemic in a century sweep across the globe, but have also experienced more severe weather exacerbated by climate change devastate our communities. These disasters always harm the most vulnerable among us. In the same vein, COVID-19 has been more lethal in communities with greater exposure to air pollution. The time to end our addiction to fossil fuels is long past. This is why we strongly urge you to deny NRG Energy, Inc. the permits to build a new fracked gas energy facility, the Astoria Repowering Project, in Astoria, Queens. Your administration has taken a leadership role in denying the Williams NESE pipeline and we hope you will take similar action here.

The New York State Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act ("CLCPA") sets forth bold and ambitious renewable energy goals, and the construction of new fracked gas peaker plants does not align with this legislation. It's important to highlight the facts that demonstrate this project's disingenuous efforts. The Astoria Repowering Project relies on pushing NRG's proposal through with permits that were granted more than 10 years ago. They have fast-tracked approvals with New York State using the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA") process which is far less rigorous than what current law requires. Projects of this scope are now mandated to be reviewed under the Article 10 Law which allows for a greater degree of public scrutiny. It's deeply concerning that we will not be afforded that degree of protection now. For what other purpose was the law designed? NRG has a history of deceptive practices in our State. This includes their broken promise to transition the Dunkirk coal plant to natural gas in 2016.

NRG defrauded the people of New York, took away jobs and tax revenue, and broke their agreement with your administration to help stabilize the grid in this region. They have been similarly deceptive in Astoria, shutting out the community from their approval process and preventing input wherever possible. As you said in 2016, "we have an energy sector where these energy companies, when they can make big profits they do it, and when the profit is not as big they're quick to close up shop and move on."

Science tells us that we have barely 10 years left to make transformative change and save our planet from the most destructive aspects of climate change. Building a new fracked gas plant is undeniably a step in the wrong direction. Now is the time to substantially increase battery storage for peak energy demand, expand new baseload renewable plants, build more distributed solar microgrids, and create excess generation of renewables to solve for reliability. New battery storage currently under

construction at the Ravenswood Generating Station and other approved RFPs for battery construction in Astoria are positive steps in the right direction. We ask you to support additional battery storage projects alongside green energy projects, such as the \$250 million Westchester Clean Energy Investment Program (awarded after Con Edison and National Grid's fraudulent gas shortage), and the Sunrise and Empire Wind projects under construction off of Long Island. These projects provide jobs and generate tax revenue, without polluting our neighborhoods and accelerating the climate crisis.

A cleaner, better world is one that will take political will and imagination, and the range of future benefits we must secure far outweigh the short-term costs. New York State has the opportunity to lead a nation desperate for clean-energy solutions that create jobs, clean the air, and make powering homes more affordable. We are committed to doing the hard work necessary to create this world, and we hope you will join us and prevent the NRG Astoria Repowering Project from moving forward. We cannot achieve the urgently needed goals of the CLCPA if we approve new fracked gas facilities and give the fossil fuel industry yet another lifeline.

Sincerely,



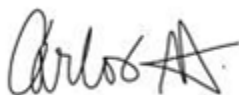
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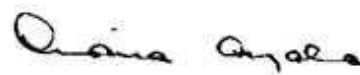
Stephen Levin



Carlina Rivera



Margaret Chin



Diana Ayala



Jimmy Van Bramer



Jessica Ramos



Michael Gianaris



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Gustavo Rivera



Julia Salazar



Toby Ann Stavitsky



Zohran Mamdani



Brian Barnwell



Chris Burdick



Kenneth Burgos



Robert Carroll



Sarah Clark



William Colton



Catalina Cruz



Jeffrey Dinowitz



Harvey Epstein



Phara Souffrant Forrest



Emily Gallagher



Chantel Jackson



Kimberly Jean-Pierre



Anna Kelles



Ron Kim



Jennifer Lunsford



Dan Quart



Nily Rozic

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Jessica González-Rojas

A cursive handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Linda Rosenthal'.

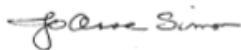
Linda Rosenthal

A cursive handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rebecca A. Seawright'.

Rebecca A. Seawright

A cursive handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Amanda Septimo'.

Amanda Septimo

A cursive handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'JoAnn Simon'.

JoAnn Simon