

June 9, 2025

Dear Governor Hochul and New York State Legislators:

We write as health professionals and organizations from across New York State, eager to see real progress toward healthy homes and communities, plus a stable climate vital for our health and well-being. We view the NY Home Energy Affordable Transition Act (S.4158/A.4870a), known as NY HEAT, as a much-needed, key set of policies required to usher in that healthy future, in an efficient and just way.

Some of us are with Concerned Health Professionals of New York (CHPNY) and Physicians for Social Responsibility - New York (PSR-NY) and have been studying the science and educating the public on the [health and climate impacts of fracking and its infrastructure](#) for nearly a decade and a half. Some of us conduct our own original research. Others of us working in medicine and public health see the impacts of fossil-fuel dependence in real time, on our patients and in the communities that we serve.

We are all disturbed by the ongoing asthma crisis in our state's cities, from New York to Rochester—as documented in the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America's [2024 Allergy Capitals report](#)—as well as by other conditions and illnesses created or exacerbated by polluted air, indoors and out. We're discouraged at the newest ratings from the [American Lung Association](#): of the fourteen New York State counties measured for particle pollution, half were rated a "C" or below in air quality.

CHPNY's and PSR-NY's findings detail the need for a swift and just transition away from methane gas and other fossil fuels to safer forms of energy in order to protect public health and the environment. A wealth of data also show that our fossil fuel-based energy system is a driver of racial and socioeconomic [health disparities](#), both [inside](#) and [outside](#) homes.

Some of us have met with communities across the state to share the scientific findings on the health and environmental harms of statewide, community, and household reliance on methane gas. It is clear that pollutants including nitrogen dioxide, benzene, formaldehyde, carbon monoxide, and toxic particulate matter emitted from gas appliances present profound risks to the health and safety of New Yorkers. About two-thirds of the annual 200 hospitalizations and 1,800 emergency department visits in the state due to carbon monoxide exposure can be attributed to [fossil-fuel burning home appliances](#).

Having gas-fired residential appliances is not necessarily the active choice of households, especially for those who rent, and a desired transition is out of reach for many. Even more out of the control of households and communities are the serious risks of proximity to methane gas pipelines and compressor stations. New Yorkers have been made to live with these risks for too long.

We need NY HEAT to tackle those aspects of a transition to safe energy and decreased pollution that *require* state-level action. The NY HEAT Act makes practical changes to address challenges such as:

- The ongoing replacement and expansion of methane gas pipes are driving up utility bills;
- Customers are forced to foot the bill through surcharges whenever utilities invest in methane gas infrastructure;
- One in four New York State families has an unaffordable energy bill;
- Pollution from fossil fuels like methane gas disproportionately affects lower income people and communities of color.

We applaud the sound logic of NY HEAT's provisions to simultaneously tackle energy affordability and harmful toxic exposures while playing a pivotal role in ensuring that New York meets the statutory climate justice and greenhouse gas reduction targets of its climate law. The bill removes the legal obstacles currently preventing the state from pursuing cost-effective alternatives to methane gas infrastructure and ending outdated subsidies for gas infrastructure expansion.

NY HEAT's common-sense solutions will accelerate New Yorkers' access to dramatically safer, healthier, and more affordable alternatives for heating, cooling, cooking, and water heating. Our [reviews of scientific data](#) and our daily medical office experience underscore the public health imperative of transitioning away from burning methane gas and other fossil fuels. We strongly urge you to pass the NY HEAT Act now.

Signed,

Organizations:

Concerned Health Professionals of New York
Physicians for Social Responsibility – New York
NYS Public Health Association
American Lung Association
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
Interfaith Public Health Network
Columbia VP&S White Coats for Black Lives

Individuals:

HK Abdulghani, RN
Jane Andrews, MD, MPH
Amy Angelone, LMSW
Steven Berk, MD
Heidi Beutler, MD
Mollie Biewald, MD
Guthrie Birkhead, MD, MPH

Max Micallef
Joe Modrak, MD
David Nagel, MD, PhD, ATSF
Debra Nelson, PsyD
Kathleen Nolan, MD, MSL
Ruth Ann Norton, BA
James Ogilvie, PhD

E. Allen Blair, MD
Steve Callahan, PTA
Alexis Cameron, RN, BSN
David O. Carpenter, MD
Cameron Clarke, MPP/MSc, MD anticipated
Ann Converso, RN
Daniel Croft, MD, MPH, ATSF
Randy Cruz, MPH
Edgard Francisco Danielsen, PhD, LP
Amanda Dilger, MD
Brian Drummond, MD
Larysa Dyrszka, MD
Wendy Greenspun, PhD
Shravya Gurrupu, BAS
Leah Hallow, Psy.D.
Susan Harris, EdD
Hope Igleheart, MA
Francesca J., RN
Wendy S Kaiser, LCSW
Susan Kassouf, PhD, LP
Michaela Kupfer, MPH
Melissa Lawrie, Psychologist
Susan Levenstein, MD
Grace Magee, RN
Michelle McNamara, RN

Carmi Orenstein, MPH
Kerstin Pahl, PhD, LP
Sheila Palevsky, MD, MPH, FAAP
Robert Pezzolesi, MPH, ODHM
Grégoire Pierre, MA, LP
Daniel Polyak, MA, LP
Rachelle Reeder, MPH
Penny Rosen, MSW, LCSW
Christian Salcedo, MS
Pamela Sass, MD
Marta Schaaf, DrPH
Patrick Schnell, MD, FAAP
Barton Schoenfeld, MD, FACC
Kirk Scirto, MD, MPH
Emily Senay, MD, MPH
Meghan Smith-Torino, MPH
Neelu Tummala, MD
Ann Turner, MD
Jane van Dis, MD
Aleksandra Wagner, LP
Marie Weinstein, PhD
Courtney M. Williams, PhD
Zachary Williams, MPH
Ami Zota, ScD, MS