

**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.⁴

1. 1000 Divestment Commitments and Counting by: Louise Hazan, Yossi Cadan, Richard Brooks, Alex Rafalowicz, Brett Fleishman, <https://gofossilfree.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/1000divest-WEB-.pdf>
2. New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), <https://www.nysesda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/Energy-Storage/Achieving-NY-Energy-Goals>
3. New York State Senate Bill S2992, <https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2019/S2992>
4. Nixon calls for New York to fully embrace renewable energy by 2050, <https://w.nytimes.com/2018/04/20/.../ny-nixon-renewable-energy-cuomo.html>