



**THE NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OPPOSES AMENDING THE ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION LAW AND
THE PUBLIC SERVICE LAW IN RELATION TO THE STATE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION
ACCOUNTING SYSTEM**

S6030 PARKER 2023

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York
The Honorable Andrea Stewart Cousins, Senate Leader
The Honorable Carl Heastie, Assembly Speaker

Dear Governor Hochul, Senate Leader Cousins, Assembly Speaker Heastie:

The New York State Council of Churches shares the belief that care of the earth is a moral, theological, and spiritual issue and that the climate crisis presents us with a profound moral challenge. Addressing the climate crisis is an issue of justice. The poor, the marginalized and future generations will suffer the most from the effects of climate change, while the wealthier and those in the more developed nations have been responsible for most of the greenhouse gas emissions.

Addressing the climate crisis is a matter of utmost urgency. What we do or fail to do in the next few years will affect life on this planet for the next several thousand. The most recent IPCC report stated that in order to limit warming to around 1.5°C (2.7°F) requires global greenhouse gas emissions to peak before 2025 at the latest, and be reduced by 43% by 2030; at the same time, methane would also need to be reduced by about a third. "It's now or never, if we want to limit global warming to 1.5°C (2.7°F)," said IPCC Working Group III Co-Chair Jim Skea. "Without immediate and deep emissions reductions across all sectors, it will be impossible."

We therefore strongly oppose Senate bill number 6030 which would amend the environmental conservation law in relation to the state greenhouse gas emission accounting system. This bill would seriously undermine the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, weaken the

would seriously undermine the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, weaken the state's ability to control greenhouse gas emissions, and put us all at greater risk of a climate catastrophe.

Among other things, this bill would change the accounting rules under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) by requiring the use of a 100 year timeframe for measuring methane emissions instead of a twenty-year timeframe. Methane is one of the most potent greenhouse gasses and methane emissions account for about one quarter of the global warming effect today. At present, the CLCPA requires that methane be counted based on a 20-year timeframe. This is based on scientific evidence that the most significant impact from methane emissions on climate disruption occurs in the first 20 years after release. [The International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis](#) has stated that acceleration of methane into the atmosphere - even temporary increases - may be the biggest threat to keeping below 1.5C of global heating and seriously risks triggering catastrophic climate 'tipping points.'

Changing the accounting standards for measuring methane emissions from a 20 year time frame to a 100 year time frame is therefore not merely a technical tweak, but one which would fundamentally weaken our efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate disruption.

The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act is based on sound science and used the correct approach to methane impact accounting. New York cannot and should not change course. The New York State Council of Churches joins others in sounding the alarm about this effort to undermine the CLCPA.

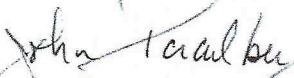
The Council appreciates your efforts to pass strong climate legislation in this session. S. 6030 tremendously compromises all of the progress we have made and will continue to make to strengthen climate justice. We urge you to rigorously oppose S. 6030 and not have it included in any form in the final budget.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



The Reverend Peter Cook, Executive Director



The Reverend John Paarlberg, Chairman, Social Justice Commission