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Remarks by Kyle Rabin, Policy Analyst,  
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*Presented To:*  
**The NY Climate Action Council**  
*on the*  
**DRAFT SCOPING PLAN**

April 6, 2022

CAC Co-Chairs President Harris and Commissioner Seggos and members of the Council:

**My name is Kyle Rabin and I am representing the Alliance for Clean Energy New York. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Scoping Plan and for providing numerous options for the public to weigh in. ACE NY will be submitting more detailed comments in writing. I'd like to highlight a few things today.**

**First and foremost, we know that climate change is supercharging extreme weather and causing other devastating changes to the planet, and we are seeing the effects in our region. For many reasons, coastal communities like Long Island need to champion this Plan which represents real solutions that will lessen the impacts of global warming. As the plan recognizes, disadvantaged communities – both here and across the state – are most vulnerable to the changing climate.**

**It is not an oversimplification to say that the most important and immediate action for New York is to ensure that wind and solar projects break ground and get built. These projects are essential to making measurable progress towards the 70 percent goal. And the State has us on the right track!**

The new permitting regime is off to a good start, and we agree with the Plan that the State and the Office of Renewable Energy Siting should continue to improve and streamline the process for cost-effective, timely and environmentally responsible siting of large-scale projects, while delivering significant benefits to local communities.

On a related note, the State should continue to encourage and facilitate collaboration between the renewable energy industry and the farming community to advance the objectives of the Climate Act while sustaining the State's vital agricultural sector. One way to ensure a healthy local and regional food system is innovation that encourages farmers to grow crops and raise livestock underneath and around solar arrays. We greatly appreciate the state's leadership on this issue, in particular the work of NYSERDA.

In closing, we strongly support the fundamental component and objective of the Climate Act ... that is, the need to ensure New York's transition to a low-carbon economy results in beneficial outcomes for traditionally underserved communities.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share these comments. We look forward to working with all stakeholders in realizing New York's ambitious vision.