

## YOUR ORGANIZATION'S LETTERHEAD

The Honorable Andrew Cuomo  
Governor  
State of New York  
Albany, New York

Dear Governor Cuomo:

Our state – its diverse peoples, lands, waters and air – are a remarkable gift, gravely threatened by climate change. As religious and spiritual leaders, and as people of diverse faiths from across New York State, we are writing to ask you to do what is urgently right in 2018: support the NY Renews proposal for an equitable transition to 100% renewable energy, funded by an escalating fee on corporate climate polluters.

The NY Renews approach commits New York to a transition to 100% renewable energy in a manner that is just and fair for workers and communities, paid for by a reasonable fee on the very pollution that creates climate change. This approach is visionary. It would help protect New York from climate change. It would serve as a beacon for other states and for our country. It would be a sign of hope for the world.

It is difficult to overstate the threat that climate change poses. This past fall reminded us that climate change is a gravely dangerous present reality; it also foreshadowed an agonized future if we fail to act decisively.

- We remembered the fifth anniversary of Superstorm Sandy and the sixth anniversary of Hurricane Irene. These storms devastated significant parts of New York and traumatized countless communities and families, including many of our state's most vulnerable neighborhoods.

- We watched as Hurricanes Harvey and Maria pummeled Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and the Caribbean. You yourself saw firsthand the suffering of our Puerto Rican brothers and sisters, many of whom have close ties with and family in New York, and the tragic inadequacy of our Federal government's response.

The scientific community is unequivocally clear that we must act immediately and aggressively on climate to prevent a future which no sane person would choose. That is why we are writing to you now.

Along with partners from the labor, environmental justice, environmental, and racial and social justice communities, we call on you to demonstrate unambiguous support for NY Renews' proposed polluter fee and related investments. This approach would set in motion the building of the clean energy infrastructure that New York needs. It would create tens of thousands of good, family-sustaining jobs in our state, increase investment in wind, solar, other forms of renewable energy, electric vehicles and mass transit. It would reduce energy costs for families and businesses through investments in energy efficiency, and protect the Environmental Justice communities most vulnerable to climate change through a range of local sustainability and resiliency projects. It would reduce demand for fossil fuels and generate funds for a just transition for all communities and workers by placing a polluter fee on the fossil fuel industry, which is the source of the pollution that causes climate change.

Each of these commitments is common sense. Each is the right thing to do. Together, these actions represent a just, compassionate and sensible response to the climate crisis, at the necessary scale. We live in a time of consequence in relation to climate change. It is not an overstatement to say that we face a stark choice between right and wrong, between life and death, for the future of our state and our precious planet.

We urge you to choose life and to make your support for NY Renews' approach to climate policy for our state unmistakably clear.

Sincerely,

**Signer(s) for your organization**