



Memorandum of Opposition
S.6843-B (Kavanaugh) / A.8431-A (Gallagher)

The Empire State Chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), which represents hundreds of merit shop contractors and subcontractors, employing hundreds of thousands of workers throughout the state of New York, opposes S.6843-B/A.8431-A.

New York's Climate Action Council recently released its Draft Scoping Plan. In accordance with the CLCPA, New York residents have a right to participate in public hearings and comment on the plan on a New York State website. Voting on this bill now would avoid public input and render meaningless any comments that the public has a statutory right to provide. It would be a display of sheer disregard and contempt for the will of the public and a slap in the face to hard-working New Yorkers who are being told by their leaders that they value their feedback. The Climate Action Council is currently reviewing the electrification of buildings in accordance with the CLCPA.

This bill would create the "All Electric Buildings Act" which would ban the use of natural gas in new construction statewide by 2024. If this legislation passes, it will greatly increase the risk of losing power in New York. New York City already has rolling blackouts and Upstate New York also faces energy shortages. A study from GTI Energy found that power system outages are more than 100 times more frequent than gas system outages. Large-scale outages could put millions of New Yorkers at risk during the winter months. Our question is who gets priority when the electric grid fails?

Banning natural gas would further increase energy prices for consumers who are already facing record-level inflation, gas prices, and recovering from a pandemic. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, natural gas is the most popular home heating fuel in the state. More than 60% of New Yorkers use natural gas to heat their homes.

This measure would remove consumer choice on how they heat/power their homes and businesses. It's also detrimental to consumers who live in areas where electricity simply isn't as reliable or available as natural gas. Albany should be looking to assist its residents, not harm them with yet another costly regulation.

Rather than rush a flawed and costly proposal, and attempt to deny public input, the Legislature should let the Council complete its work. This bill would put the lives of New Yorkers at risk, drive up the cost of energy and doing business in New York, and drive out more New Yorkers who prefer autonomy – not mandates.

For the reasons above, the ABC Empire State Chapter opposes this legislation.

If you have questions, please reach out to our Public Affairs Manager, Tanner Schmidt, at (585) 730-1814 or tschmidt@abcnys.org