

## Memorandum of Support

### NY HEAT Act (Home Energy Affordable Transition)

S.4158 (Krueger) / A.4870A (Simon)



#### Summary of Legislation

The New York Home Energy Affordable Transition Act (S.4158/A4870A), known as NY HEAT, is urgently needed to tackle the energy affordability and climate crises. The bill will free New York to pursue cost effective alternatives to costly gas infrastructure, end outdated subsidies for gas infrastructure expansion, and protect New Yorkers from unaffordable energy bills.

#### Statement of Support

Sustainable Saratoga is a not-for-profit organization that promotes sustainable practices and the protection of natural resources for the benefit of current and future generations. We urge the New York Legislature to **include NY HEAT in the budget** for the following reasons:

- **Gas pipelines are driving up energy costs:** New Yorkers are facing rising energy bills and extreme weather due to climate change. Heating bills for New Yorkers are about **18%** higher this year because while the cost of gas itself is low, the extreme costs of maintaining and replacing gas infrastructure are keeping energy bills high.
- **When utilities invest in gas infrastructure, customers foot the bill:** Utilities are raising our rates to pay for billions of dollars in gas pipeline investments, even when there are cheaper, cleaner alternatives available. Gas pipelines cost between \$3 million and \$10 million *per mile* to construct and that ends up on our energy bills because utilities pass those costs on to us. Utility shareholders also earn a return on equity for these investments, and the cost of that shareholder profit also gets added to utility bills.
- **One in four NY families has an unaffordable energy bill:** The impact of this unchecked investment is that 25% of households in our state see utility bills that exceed the nationally recognized energy affordability threshold of 6% of household income.

#### NY HEAT Provides Common Sense Solutions

**Please support the NY HEAT Act in the state budget.**

Sections 3 and 6(1) of the NY HEAT Act amend New York's gas mandate and enable the pursuit of alternatives to gas pipeline investments when those alternatives are cheaper and technologically feasible. Section 6(3) protects the most vulnerable customers in the state from unaffordable energy bills by requiring the Public Service Commission (PSC) to develop a plan to achieve its own goal that no household should pay more than 6% of their income for energy. Section 7 of NY HEAT eliminates the so-called "100 foot rule" which forces all utility customers to subsidize new gas hookups. Ending this subsidy would save customers more than \$200 million annually.

**Please support the NY HEAT Act in the state budget.**