

April 22, 2026

Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York State  
New York State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224

**Dear Governor Hochul,**

As faith leaders and clergy members serving communities across New York State, we urge you to uphold the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). Your budget proposal would undermine a law that our communities are counting on being both implemented and funded. This is an economic issue, a public health issue, a justice issue, but most of all, it's a moral issue. Our diverse faiths compel us to speak up when witnessing injustice and we call on you as a religious person and a Catholic to do the right thing.

**This is a Climate Emergency**

More and more, New Yorkers experience catastrophic climate events across our beloved state, with storms, wildfires, and extreme heat destroying agriculture, critical infrastructure, and disrupting the livelihoods of millions. The cost of life, property, and public dollars are growing; while these figures can be enumerated, the loss of sacred life is immeasurable. Dismantling the CLCPA merely shifts the costs to future taxpayers, to emergency responders, and to the most vulnerable residents in every community we serve. Our faiths call us to take care of our neighbors and of the beautiful creation given to us.

Choosing to rely on dirty fossil fuels not only continues to destroy the earth, soil, and water, but it also destabilizes the wellbeing of our communities by negatively affecting the health, work, and family life of New Yorkers. Renewable energy is the affordable choice. It is the healthy choice. It is the moral choice. We need to ramp up efforts to make a just energy transition. To delay the CLCPA is a failure of moral imagination and a lack of political will.

**We Need Climate Leadership Now**

As the governor of our state, we need your leadership on this critical issue. We call on you to work with your colleagues in the legislature to ensure New York stays on track to meet its climate commitments while protecting our air, water, and communities.

Respectfully,

[Congregations listed for identification only]

1. Vicar Carl Adair, The Episcopal Mission in Sunnyside, Sunnyside
2. Sister Joan Agro, OP, Secretary General, Sisters of St. Dominic, Blauvelt
3. Rabbi Renni Altman, Vassar Temple, Poughkeepsie
4. Zen Priest Danica Shoan Ankele, Zen Mountain Monastery, Mount Tremper
5. Vicar Nell Archer, Iglesia de la Santa Cruz and Bushwick Abbey, Brooklyn
6. Abbot Geoffrey Shugen Arnold, Zen Mountain Monastery, Mount Tremper
7. Rabbi Guy Austrian, New York City
8. Rev. Dr. Majadi Baruti, Udja Temple, Buffalo
9. Rev. Chloe Breyer, The Interfaith Center of New York, New York City
10. Rev. Micah Bucey, Judson Memorial Church, New York City
11. Rabbi Joel N. Buchband, West Hempstead
12. Rev. Kent Busman, Fowler Camp and Retreat Center RCA/UCC, Scotia
13. Pastor Daniel Carlson, Niskayuna
14. Lay Leader Melissa Carlson, Rochester Mennonite Fellowship, Rochester
15. Pastor Jake Chipka, Delmar Reformed Church, Delmar
16. Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Courter, Justice Ministries Committee, Presbytery of NYC (PCUSA)  
New York City
17. Rector John Denaro, St. Ann & the Holy Trinity Church, Brooklyn
18. Rabbi Brian Denker, Brooklyn
19. Rev. Starr Regan DiCiurcio, Queensbury
20. Dan Donohue, The New York Society for Ethical Culture, New York City
21. Sister Marguerite Donovan, Sisters of St. Joseph Carondelet, Albany
22. Chaplain Barbara Dufty, Hospitals in Tri-State Area, New York City
23. Rabbi Judith Edelstein, New York City
24. Rev. Sarah Dōjin Emerson, Brooklyn Zen Center, New York City
25. Rev. Miguel Escobar, Brooklyn
26. Pastor John Flack, Our Saviour's Atonement Lutheran Church, New York City
27. Fr. Gregory Gebbia, OFM, Siena University, Loudonville
28. Senior Monastic Suzanne Taikyo Gilman, Mount Tremper
29. Cantor Elizabeth Goldmann, Vassar Temple, Poughkeepsie
30. Rabbi Howard Goldsmith, Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester, Rye
31. The Rev. Tom Goodhue, United Methodist Church, New York City
32. Rabbi Irving Greenberg, New York City
33. Rev. Lynne Grifo, The Episcopal Church, Brooklyn
34. Senior Rabbi Brent Gutmann, Temple Beth Zion, Buffalo
35. Rabbi Dr. Hilly Haber, Central Synagogue, New York City

36. Rev. Dr. John Heister, Mt. Rise UCC, Penfield
37. Rev. Kenneth Himes, OFM Scholar in Residence, Siena University, Albany
38. Associate Rector Julie Hoplamazian, St. Michael's Church, New York City
39. Rev. Katharine Houk, Sanctuary Without Walls, Chatham
40. Rev. Raquel Irizarry, All Souls Bethlehem Church, Brooklyn
41. Farhana Islam, Muslims For Progress, Nassau county
42. Rabbi Glenn Jacob, Congregation Shir Chadash, Lagrangeville
43. Rabbi Marisa James, Congregation Beit Simchat Torah (CBST), New York City
44. Father Brian Jordan, OFM, Church of St. Francis of Assisi, New York City
45. Fr. Jimmy Kernan, OFM, Loudonville
46. Buddhist Priest/Teacher Jody Kimmel, Zen Center of NYC, Brooklyn
47. Mahayana Landowne, Quaker Activists, Brooklyn
48. The Rt. Rev. Bishop Lawrence, Episcopal Diocese of Long Island Garden City
49. Cantor Susan Lewis-Friedman, Temple Beth Zion, Buffalo
50. Rabbi Samuel Levine, East Midwood Jewish Center, New York City
51. Rev. Ana Levy-Lyons, Unitarian Universalist, New York City
52. Cantor Abbe Lyons, Ithaca
53. Rev. Micah C. Ma, First Unitarian Congregational Society, Brooklyn
54. Rev. Chelsea MacMillan, GreenFaith, New York City
55. Rev. Brenda Marshall, Diocese of Long Island, Long Island
56. Rev. Elizabeth Maxwell, Church of the Ascension, New York City
57. The Rev. Erika Meyer, Grace Church, Brooklyn Heights
58. Rev. Danielle Miller, Advent Lutheran Church, New York City
59. Rev. Fred Milligan, Presbyterians for Earth Care, New York City
60. Fr. Stephen Mimnaugh, OFM, St. Bonaventure University, St. Bonaventure
61. Priest Associate Matthew Moore, Church of the Epiphany and St. Simon, Brooklyn
62. Rev. / Fellowship and Spiritual Care Director Elæ Moss, Faith in Harm Reduction,  
New York City
63. Senior Rabbi Joel Mosbacher, Temple Shaaray Tefila, New York City
64. Fr. Kevin Mullen, Siena University Friary, Loudonville
65. Rev. Canon T Abigail Murphy, Episcopal Church, Cornwall
66. Reverend John Musco, Bushwick Abbey, Brooklyn
67. Rabbi Lev Meiowitz Nelson, Flatbush Jewish Center, Brooklyn
68. Fr. John O'Connor, OFM, St. Bonaventure University Friary, Saint Bonaventure
69. Br. Jacek Orzechowski, OFM, Loudonville
70. Rev. John Paarlberg, NY State Council of Churches, Albany
71. Rev. Joseph Pae, All Saints Episcopal Church, Great Neck
72. Br. Michael Perry, Franciscans, St. Bernardine of Siena Friary, Loudonville

73. The Rt. Rev. Bishop Lawrence Provenzano, Episcopal Diocese of Long Island, Garden City
74. Rev. Anthony Ricciuti, Rochester
75. Rev. Dr. Gail Ricciuti, Rochester
76. Rev. Lilo Rivera, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Bayshore
77. Rabbi Jennie Rosenn, Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action, New York City
78. Rev. Robert Sandoz, Siena University, Loudonville
79. Rev. Mira Sawlani-Joyner, New York City
80. Deacon Christine Scott, Episcopal Diocese of Long Island, Garden City
81. Pastor Rebecca Segers, Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester
82. Rev. Constance L. Seifert, Corning First United Methodist Church, Corning
83. Rabbi Randy Sheinberg, Temple Tikvah of New Hyde Park
84. Rabbi Dr. Dan Smokler, Assembly, New York City
85. Rabbi Peter Stein, Temple B'rith Kodesh, Rochester
86. Senior Monastic Suzanne Taikyo Gilman, Mountains & Rivers Order of Zen Buddhism, Mount Tremper
87. Fr. Dennis Tamburello, Siena University, Loudonville
88. Reverend Adriene Thorne, The Riverside Church, New York City
89. Sunita Viswanath, Hindus for Human Rights, New York City
90. Rev. Dr. Fred Weidmann, The Evangelical Lutheran of America and The United Church of Christ, Forest Hills
91. Rev. Jane Winters, Elmira
92. Rabbi Mara Young, Greenburgh, NY
93. Rabbi Lina Zerbarini, Kehillath Shalom Synagogue, Cold Spring Harbor