NOFA-NY
NORTHEAST ORGANIC FARMING ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK

MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT: An Act to amend the Public Service Law, in relation to the provision of gas service to new customers

S.8417 (Krueger)/ A.8888 (Simon)

The Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York (NOFA-NY) strongly supports S.8417 / A.8888, which eliminates the "100-foot rule" line extension allowance that requires utilities and municipalities to cover the installation of new gas service infrastructure for customers located within 100 feet of a gas transmission line. This legislation takes an important step toward aligning state utility policy with New York's climate and environmental justice mandates, such as those set by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), by removing a long-standing and harmful fossil fuel subsidy.

Under current law, utilities and municipalities are required to provide new gas customers with up to 100 feet of service gas line extension at no cost to the applicant. This policy not only incentivizes continued reliance on fossil fuels but also costs utility customers more than $200 million each year in gas infrastructure subsidies. It runs directly counter to the goals of the CLCPA, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, transition to a clean energy economy, and ensure environmental justice. Removing the 100' rule will help ensure that customers aren't stuck paying for unneeded infrastructure as more buildings choose to electrify, helping protect long-term affordability for utility customers.

The continued expansion of gas infrastructure—subsidized by all utility customers—undermines New York's focus on affordability and its transition to clean energy and locks in harmful air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions for decades. S.8417 / A.8888 takes a critical step toward reversing this trend by eliminating the 100-foot rule for new gas service, which will stop incentivizing fossil fuel expansion at public expense, save utility customers millions annually, and support the development of electrification and neighborhood-scale decarbonization projects. This legislation does not prohibit new gas hookups; it simply ends the unsustainable practice of requiring utility customers to subsidize them. It is a fiscally responsible, climate-aligned reform that brings utility law into alignment with the CLCPA and broader climate goals, and into alignment with neighboring states like Massachusetts.

For these reasons, we urge Governor Hochul to sign S.8417 / A.8888 into law.

For more information, contact Katie Baildon, Policy Manager, kbaildon@nofany.org

Founded in 1983, the Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York (NOFA-NY) is a member-based, statewide organization dedicated to growing a strong, regenerative organic agriculture movement. NOFA-NY provides education and assistance to local organic and agroecological farmers; connects consumers with local farmers; advocates policies that support a sustainable and fair food and farm system at both the state and federal levels; and is the largest USDA-accredited organic certifier in New York, certifying nearly 1,000 organic operations in the state.

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