

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3223**

February 16, 2023

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

Dear Governor Hochul:

We write to you today, in support of New York State's farmers and agricultural industry, to share our concerns regarding the Climate Action Council's most recent advancement of its Scoping Plan.

Farmers across the state of New York have worked tirelessly to develop new practices on their farms to address environmental concerns. They play a leading role in helping to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and have been engaged on many renewable energy projects. While we understand the need to reduce GHG emissions, the Scoping Plan's transportation goals—specifically, the transition to electric vehicles (EVs)—would have a devastating impact on the survival of our state's agricultural producers.

Farmers rely on a variety of different vehicles at both the farm and distribution levels to transport their goods. A lack of charging infrastructure on roads less traveled, higher purchasing and operating costs, and reliability issues of EVs when hauling perishable agricultural commodities across far distances remain unresolved concerns. Even if the State was successful in building out EV infrastructure, serious challenges would remain. As you know, charging a medium- or heavy-duty EV takes time, and it is imperative that livestock are moved in a timely manner. Reliance on EVs with long charging times could put unwanted stress on livestock and could put the animals in unsafe conditions.

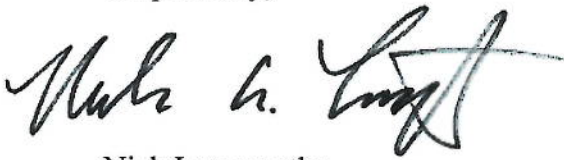
Furthermore, affordable technology that would allow for the entire transition to electric farm equipment simply does not exist. While there are some small farm electric tractors that are currently available on the market, there is no EV equivalent that could replace existing diesel-powered large farm equipment such as tractors, sprayers, combines, and choppers. The Scoping Plan amounts to forcing our producers off of reliable, efficient machinery they have relied on for years with no real alternative equipment available. What's more, requiring our farmers to rely more heavily on electric charging vehicles ignores the operational realities of farming and the inconvenience of having to park equipment for hours on end to recharge. Without an adequate electric grid as the State transitions away from natural gas and other reliable, affordable fossil fuels, the Scoping Plan provides no answers as to how such a transition to electrification can be accommodated on an already strained grid. These concerns and many more remain unresolved.



Finally, the implementation of the Scoping plan risks shutting out the stakeholders—our state's farmers—who will be subject to any new regulations. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has significant authority in drafting and promulgating these regulations to achieve the goals set forth in this plan. It is concerning that this process bypasses the legislative and regulatory rulemaking process, ultimately providing agencies with significant authority to create rules without receiving the necessary outside input.

We appreciate your consideration of the agriculture industries' concerns that the impacts of the Scoping Plan will have on farmers, and we encourage DEC to keep the agriculture industry in mind when implementing this plan in the coming year.

Respectfully,




Nick Langworthy  
Member of Congress



Marcus J. Molinaro  
Member of Congress



Elise M. Stefanik  
Member of Congress



Claudia Tenney  
Member of Congress



Michael V. Lawler  
Member of Congress



Brandon Williams  
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Nick LaLota  
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