



The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
Executive Chambers
The Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12204

November 20, 2024

Dear Governor Hochul:

As members of the Reform Jewish clergy in New York State, we write to request your immediate approval of the Climate Change Superfund Act.

Genesis 2:15 observes that, “The Eternal placed the human being into the Garden of Eden to work it and keep it.” Those words emphasize our responsibility to protect the integrity of the environment so that its diverse species, including humans, can thrive.

Climate change is here – and is already harming our communities. Formerly considered once-in-a generation occurrences, the number of extreme weather events throughout New York State has increased dramatically over the past decade. We now live through frequent intense storms and heat waves. In 2022, Buffalo sustained a devastating blizzard that killed 47 people. Just one year earlier, Hurricane Ida killed 16 people and caused between \$7.5 and \$9 billion in damages. Between 2012 and 2023, New York experienced 16 federally declared Major Disasters from extreme weather events. The situation will undoubtedly get worse.

Your approval of the Climate Change Superfund Act will force the largest fossil fuel companies to cover some of the costs of preparing New York for extreme weather caused by climate change. Once signed, those fossil fuel companies will pay a total of \$75 billion--in \$3 billion annual increments over the course of 25 years--to fund infrastructure investments, including coastal wetlands restoration, storm water drainage system upgrades, and energy efficient cooling in buildings. At least 35% of all spending will go to historically disadvantaged communities. The companies will each pay a share of the total \$75 billion based upon their proportional contribution to overall emissions.

New York State taxpayers will benefit directly from the Climate Change Superfund Act because it will help ensure that less taxpayer spending is diverted to the costs of dealing with climate change. Last year alone, New York taxpayers footed a \$2.2 billion bill for the climate crisis.

Significantly, the companies most responsible for the fossil fuel emissions that cause climate change will not be able to pass to consumers the costs they incur under the Climate Change Superfund Act. That is the view of Joseph Stiglitz, Nobel Prize winner in Economics, the non-partisan Fiscal Policy Institute, and the Institute for Policy Integrity of the New York University School of Law.

For all these reasons, we urge you to sign the Climate Change Superfund Act immediately. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Listed alphabetically

Rabbi David Adelson (HUC-JIR, New York)
Rabbi Renni Altman (Vassar Temple, Poughkeepsie)
Cantor Dana Anesi (HUC-JIR, New York)
Cantor Chanin Becker (Scarsdale Synagogue, Scarsdale)
Rabbi Debra Bennet (Temple Chaverim, Plainview)
Cantor Suzanne Bernstein (Temple Israel Reform Congregation, Staten Island)
Rabbi Jonathan Blake (Westchester Reform Temple, Scarsdale)
Rabbi Jerome Blum (Temple Isaiah of Great Neck, Great Neck)
Cantor Josh Breitzer (Congregation Beth Elohim, Brooklyn)
Cantor Olivia Brodsky (East End Temple, New York)
Rabbi Jeffrey Brown (Scarsdale Synagogue, Scarsdale)
Associate Rabbi Leah Citrin (Westchester Reform Temple, Scarsdale)
Rabbi Michael G. Cohen (Central Synagogue - Beth Emeth, Rockville Centre)
Senior Rabbi Matt Cutler (Congregation Gates of Heaven, Schenectady)
Cantor Shayna De Lowe (Congregation Rodeph Sholom, New York)
Rabbi Emeritus Billy Dreskin (Woodlands Community Temple, White Plains)
Rabbi Helaine Ettinger (Philipstown Reform Synagogue, Cold Spring)
Rabbi Paula Feldstein (Hebrew Tabernacle Congregation, New York)
Rabbi Jason Fenster (Congregation Kol Ami, White Plains)
Rabbi Adam Fisher (Temple Isaiah, Stony Brook)
Rabbi Libby Fisher (Congregation Kol Ami, White Plains)
Rabbi Leora Frankel (Larchmont Temple, Larchmont)
Rabbi Ari L. Fridkis (Temple of Universal Judaism, New York)
Rabbi Daniel Geffen (Temple Adas Israel, Sag Harbor)
Cantor Ella Gladstone Martin (The Community Synagogue, Port Washington)
Cantor Rita Glassman (Temple Israel of New Rochelle, New Rochelle)
Rabbi Rachel Goldenberg (Malkhut, Queens)
Cantor Elizabeth Goldmann (Vassar Temple, Poughkeepsie)
Rabbi Howard Goldsmith (Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester, Rye)
Senior Rabbi Brent Gutmann (Temple Beth Zion, Amherst)
Rabbi Hilly Haber (Central Synagogue, New York)
Hazzan / Cantor Steven Hevenstone (North Shore Synagogue, Syosset)
Rabbi David Holtz (Temple Beth Abraham, Tarrytown)
Rabbi Heidi Hoover (B'ShERT, Brooklyn)
Rabbi Michael Howald (Temple Israel Reform Congregation, Staten Island)
Rabbi Glenn Jacob (Congregation Shir Chadash, LaGrangeville)
Rabbi Jennifer Jaech (Temple Israel of Northern Westchester, Croton-on-Hudson)
Cantor Robin Joseph (Temple Beth Shalom, Hastings On Hudson)
Rabbi Emeritus Alan Katz (Temple Sinai, Rochester)

Cantor Todd Kipnis (Temple Shaaray Tefila, New York)
Senior Rabbi Beth Klafter (Temple Beth David, Commack)
Rabbi Douglas Kohn (Temple Beth Jacob, Newburgh)
Rabbi Stephanie Kolin (Congregation Beth Elohim, Brooklyn)
Rabbi Ann Landowne (Temple Beth-El, Geneva)
Cantor Amelia Lavranchuk Fox (North Country Reform Temple, Glen Cove)
Cantor Alison Levine (Temple Beth El of Huntington, Huntington)
Rabbi Serge Lippe (Brooklyn Heights Synagogue, Brooklyn)
Rabbi Janet Liss (North Country Reform Temple, Glen Cove)
Rabbi Andrew Mandel (Central Synagogue, New York)
Rabbi Spencer Mandell (Congregation Beth Emeth, Albany)
Cantor Jenna Mark (Woodlands Community Temple, White Plains)
Rabbi Norman Mendel (Retired)
Rabbi Emerita Shira Milgrom (Congregation Kol Ami, White Plains)
Senior Rabbi Joel Mosbacher (Temple Shaaray Tefila, New York)
Co-Rabbi Emerita Linda Motzkin (Temple Sinai, Saratoga Springs)
Cantor Katie Oringel (Larchmont temple, Larchmont)
Assistant Rabbi Alissa Platcow (Westchester Reform Temple, Scarsdale)
Cantor Ayelet Porzecanski (Brooklyn Heights Synagogue, Brooklyn)
Rabbi Daniel Reiser (Temple Beth Shalom, Hastings On Hudson)
Rabbi Bailey Romano (Brooklyn Heights Synagogue, Brooklyn)
Rabbi Jessica Rosenthal (she, her) (B'nai Israel Reform Temple, Oakdale)
Rabbi Dennis Ross
Co-Rabbi Emeritis Jonathan Rubenstein (Temple Sinai, Saratoga Springs)
Rabbi Jill Rubin (Temple Shaaray Tefila, New York)
Rabbi Lisa Rubin (Central Synagogue, New York)
Rabbi Eve Rudin (Larchmont Temple, Larchmont)
Rabbi Jade Sank Ross (The Community Synagogue, Port Washington)
Rabbi Ilana Schachter (Temple Sinai of Roslyn, Roslyn Heights)
Rabbi Drorah Setel (Temple Emanu-El, Rochester)
Rabbi Jaimee Shalhevet (North Shore Synagogue, Syosset)
Rabbi Randy Sheinberg (Temple Tikvah, New Hyde Park)
Rabbi Rebecca Shinder (Temple Beth Shalom, Florida)
Cantor Emily Short (Congregation Beth Emeth, Albany)
Rabbi Caroline Sim (Temple Am Echad, Lynbrook)
Rabbi Jeffrey Sirkman (Larchmont Temple, Larchmont)
Cantor Isaac Sonett-Assor (Westchester Reform Temple, Scarsdale)
Rabbi Peter W. Stein (Temple B'rith Kodesh, Rochester)
Rabbi Barbara Symons (Temple Beth-El of City Island, Bronx)
Rabbi Emeritus D.D. Irwin A. Tanenbaum (Congregation Shir Shalom, Buffalo)
Rabbi Rachel Timoner (Congregation Beth Elohim, Brooklyn)
Cantor Jamie Tortorello-Allen (Temple Beth Am of Northern Westchester, Yorktown Heights)
Rabbi Rochelle Tulik (Temple B'rith Kodesh, Rochester)
Rabbi Emeritus Gerald Weider (Congregation Beth Elohim, Brooklyn)

Rabbi Danielle Weisbrot (B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation, Albany)
Senior Rabbi Greg Weitzman (Congregation Beth Emeth, Albany)
Rabbi Mara Young (Woodlands Community Temple, White Plains)