



February 24, 2023

**Re: Key Vote Alert: Oppose Gas Ban, Cap and Invest**

Dear Legislator:

The Buffalo Niagara Partnership, on behalf of its members who employ over a quarter million people in the region, urges you to heed caution on the Governor's proposed climate provisions. The Cap-and-Invest proposal and natural gas ban would both have monumental economic impacts, and neither should be hastily enacted within a state budget.

The natural gas ban would be disastrous for New York businesses and residents alike. The cost of retrofitting a house, office, or factory with new heating systems and appliances is astronomical, and implementing this change will discourage business growth and homeownership.

Moreover, our community – known for its bitterly cold winters – cannot afford to forego reliable heating fuels. In Buffalo's Christmas Blizzard, 12 people died from losing power and heat.<sup>1</sup> If a fallen power line can strip communities of heat, snowstorms will only become more lethal.

New Yorkers recognize the consequences of a gas ban: Siena College poll conducted last week found that **71% of upstate residents oppose** the all-electric building proposal.<sup>2</sup>

The Governor's Cap-and-Invest proposal is also problematic. If employers are forced to bid on emissions allowances, the cost of doing business in New York will skyrocket. This policy will disproportionately impact small businesses, who will not be able to outbid larger corporations in increasingly competitive auctions.

Although you will consider hundreds of issues in this year's state budget, the climate proposals will have the most significant impact of any. These severe restrictions on fueling and emissions will have generational consequences on our state economy.

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<sup>1</sup> Stephen T. Waston, "Death toll in Buffalo blizzard rises to 47 people," *The Buffalo News*, Jan. 19, 2023, [https://buffalonews.com/news/local/death-toll-in-buffalo-blizzard-rises-to-47-people/article\\_04c578e0-9814-11ed-b391-dbf7d2370f3d.html](https://buffalonews.com/news/local/death-toll-in-buffalo-blizzard-rises-to-47-people/article_04c578e0-9814-11ed-b391-dbf7d2370f3d.html).

<sup>2</sup> "Siena College Poll," *Siena College Research Institute*, Feb. 19-23, 2023, <https://scri.siena.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/SNY0223-Crosstabs-Final.pdf>.

**The BNP implores you to refuse support for a budget that includes a natural gas ban or cap-and-invest program.** Stopping these misguided proposals from becoming law is the top priority of Buffalo Niagara employers this year.

Thank you for your attention to these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dottie Gallagher', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dottie Gallagher  
President and CEO  
Buffalo Niagara Partnership

CC: Governor Kathy Hochul