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MEMORANDUM IN OPPOSITION

Natural Gas Ban

Part WW of S.4008/A.3008 (TED Budget Bill)

The Buffalo Niagara Partnership, on behalf of its members who employ over a quarter million people in the region, **OPPOSES** the Governor's proposed ban on natural gas. This legislation would add significant costs to New York residents and threaten the reliability of our electric grid.

Under this legislation, it would be illegal to construct a building with natural gas, propane, oil heaters, boilers, piping systems, or other infrastructure beginning in 2025. New buildings would be required to be powered by electricity only. By 2030, the sale of gas-powered appliances would also be prohibited.

The practical impact of this legislation would be that building construction would become significantly more expensive. Traditional fuel sources are used because of their cost-effectiveness and reliability. Banning those fuel sources would make property ownership even less attainable for low-income New Yorkers.

Additionally, the BNP has major concerns about our electric grid's ability to handle such a change. Natural gas is the #1 source of energy in New York State.¹ Phasing out this fuel source will increase the load on our energy grid, which will already struggle to meet current demands while switching to renewable energy sourcing. Moreover, since natural gas-fired generators are the state's primary source of electricity², this change may not even reduce emissions.

Making all buildings exclusively reliant on the electric grid is a security risk. Natural gas is reliable, and its underground infrastructure makes service interruptions extremely rare. Conversely, renewable energy generators can be less reliable, and fallen power lines are common. As we saw in December's blizzard, if electricity is the only option for home heating, a power outage can become lethal.

For these reasons, the BNP **opposes the proposed natural gas ban.**

¹ U.S. Energy Information Administration, New York Energy Consumption Estimates, 2019, <https://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=NY#tabs-1>

² U.S. Energy Information Administration, New York Net Electricity Generation by Source, 2021, <https://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=NY#tabs-4>

