

A. 4592/S. 2016 (Fahy/Krueger)

An act to amend the public service law and the transportation corporations law, in relation to aligning utility regulation with state climate justice and emission reduction targets

The New York League of Conservation Voters supports A. 4592/S.2016 (Fahy/Krueger), which would amend the public service law and the transportation corporations law, in relation to aligning utility regulation with state climate justice and emission reduction targets; to repeal section 66-b of the public service law relating to continuation of gas service; and to repeal section 66-g of the public service law relating to the sale of indigenous natural gas for generation of electricity.

Fossil fuels burned in New York's building stock for heating, hot water, and cooking account for nearly 1/3 of all greenhouse gas emissions in the State. These fossil fuels impact both public health broadly and indoor air quality, contributing to cases of asthma and heart disease. Currently the Public Service Law promotes gas system expansion by establishing a gas utility obligation to serve any customer upon request while providing that existing customers subsidize new service connections. This is in contrast to the CLCPA and the goals set under the final scoping plan.

This bill will help to better align the rules and business practices of utility rate case proceedings with the reduced reliance on fossil fuels, sustainable utility planning processes, and protection for low-income ratepayers required by the CLCPA. Specifically, the bill repeals the 100-ft. rule and the obligation to serve new customers for natural gas utilities and requires gas utilities to plan for an equitable right-sizing of the gas grid in their capital plans.

For these reasons NYLCV urges the inclusion of the NY HEAT Act in the final FY 2023-2024 budget.

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