



**Testimony of Carlos Castell Croke
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**City Council Committee on Housing and Buildings
Hearing on Preliminary Budget
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NYLCV represents over 30,000 members in New York City and we are committed to advancing a sustainability agenda that will make our people, our neighborhoods, and our economy healthier and more resilient.

[In New York City, buildings account for 70% of the city's carbon emissions, consume 95% of electricity, emit 70% of carbon, and use 80% of our water.](#) Therefore, one of the largest steps our City can take to fight climate change and consequently meet our City's emission reduction goals is by decreasing building emissions.

With the passage of Local Law 97 of 2019 (LL97), there is hope to address this issue. LL97 is the City's and the country's first comprehensive law to significantly lower building emissions. This citywide plan would start capping greenhouse gas emissions in 2024, with an additional 40% emission reduction needed by 2030, and an 80% reduction by 2050, compared to the 2005 base year rate. It applies to buildings with more than 25,000 square feet, which is close to 50,000 residential and commercial properties in the city. Additionally, it imposes fines on those that fail to meet these requirements.

With the first round of caps starting in less than two years, we must ensure that the City and building owners are prepared to comply. Therefore the Office of Building Energy and Emissions Performance (OBEEP) at the Department of Buildings must have adequate funding in the upcoming FY 2023 New York City Budget for dedicated staff and resources to work on Local Law 97. To ensure we finalize the technical details of the law and efficiently and successfully implement it, more support will be needed.

We recommend an increased allocation in the budget for OBEEP to increase their staffing by 10-15 employees. We need additional staff to work with the advisory board on developing research and recommendations under the law, to finalize issuing, compliance, and enforcement rules that would ensure a smooth rollout of the bill, and to support the outreach and education needed for this market transition.

This law is a critical step towards reducing emissions and combating climate change, we cannot afford any missteps or delays. We hope that the Council will strongly consider funding OBEEP to ensure successful implementation of LL97. We are setting an example for the rest of the world, let's exemplify the strong leadership New York City is known for.

Thank you.