



NY HEAT Act: Higher Costs, Hurts Workers, Eliminates Consumer Choice

The New York State Legislature will once again consider passage of the NY HEAT Act which would have significant and detrimental impacts to energy consumers in regions across the state, particularly upstate. Make no mistake, this bill is a red herring. It claims to decrease costs for consumers when the opposite is true. It claims that it will provide new job opportunities when in reality it will put 1000's of gas workers on the unemployment line. It claims to support a responsible transition to clean energy, and instead it eliminates consumer choice, and picks winners and losers.

New Yorkers for Affordable Energy is committed to an all of the above approach to our energy future. That certainly includes renewable energy, but also includes natural gas, hydropower, nuclear and other forms of power that may be available to us. This approach will not only keep costs down but also contribute to grid reliability, energy independence and stronger economic performance.

AFFORDABILITY

HEAT Act proposal to repeal the 100-ft. Rule:

- Will put thousands of union and non-union gas workers out of a job, who currently count on the utility work from this policy to help drive new development.
- Will stifle economic growth by shifting the cost of any new natural gas hook-up from the utility company to the individual business owner.

HEAT Act proposal to cap energy bills at 6% household income:

- The Latest version of the bill makes this a policy goal and directs the Public Service Commission to work toward implementation. However, nothing in the language stops unelected Albany bureaucrats at the Commission from shifting costs from one class of customer to another (for example raising the bills of middle class customers to pay for discounts for poorer customers) and perhaps more importantly, at a time when New Yorkers are struggling to make ends meet, this bill DOES NOTHING TO LOWER ENERGY COSTS FOR FAMILIES.

Consumer Choice:

- The NY Heat Act is a backdoor gas ban, which empowers the Public Service Commission to discontinue gas service for customers, eliminating gas heating, gas stoves and appliances and other items that New Yorkers count on each and every day.
- Albany Politicians and bureaucrats will make YOUR families energy choices rather than you making them yourself.
- The result will force residents to convert to electricity. This bill provides NO DIRECT APPROPRIATION to assist consumers in that transition which will cost \$20-\$50,000 per household.

Reliability:

- In 2023, 46% of New York's electricity came from natural gas. It is the stated policy of the NYS Government to ELIMINATE natural gas and go to an all-renewable system by 2040.
- Without another power source that runs continuously to replace natural gas, the grid could become unreliable leading to blackouts and a lack of electrical service for customers.

- According to Cornell Professor Lindsay Anderson, moving to an all-renewable grid, with no natural gas back-up could lead to blackouts lasting as long as 30 days at a time in upstate New York.