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**Senator Kavanagh and Assemblymember Gallagher Join
Environmental Advocates in Urging Passage of All-Electric
Building Act**

***Bill Would Prohibit Construction of New Gas-Powered Buildings After 2023 and
Conversions After 2022***

Brooklyn, NY — Senator Brian Kavanagh and Assemblymember Emily Gallagher was joined by representatives of environmental organizations including the NY League of Conservation Voters, Sane Energy Project, Sierra Club, the Renewable Heat Now Coalition, WE ACT for Environmental Justice, and Alliance for a Green Economy to formally introduce Senate Bill S6843 - the "all-electric building act." The bill, sponsored by Senator Kavanagh and Assemblymember Gallagher, prohibits the issuance of any initial permits for the construction of new gas-powered buildings after 2023 and conversions of existing buildings after 2022, with narrow exceptions if there are truly no feasible alternatives for a particular project.

“If we are serious about reducing the harmful effects of climate change, then we must take aggressive action to decrease greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution in all sectors of our society and economy, including construction projects,” **said Senator Kavanagh, chair of the Senate Committee on Housing, Construction and Community Development.** “And we must stop adding infrastructure that requires fossil fuels.”

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, buildings account for twenty-eight percent of the United States' energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, corporations seeking approval for infrastructure to transport and distribute natural gas in New York have emphasized that the rationale for creating such infrastructure is based in part on projected increased demand for natural gas from customers in new buildings. Requiring all-electric buildings for new construction will eliminate this rationale and help achieve the greenhouse gas emission reduction goals established in the New York State Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) and further New York's record as a leader in combating climate change.”

Quote by Assemblymember Gallagher

“We have no choice but to get more aggressive in tackling the effects of the climate crisis, and that means cutting off our reliance on fossil fuels to power our lives. This legislation will greatly reduce our use of natural gas and move us towards a more renewable future,” **said Senate Deputy Leader Michael Gianaris.**

"It is imperative we pass this bill now to halt fracked gas use in new buildings across New York State,” **said Kim Fraczek, Director of Sane Energy Project.** “It is time to send a clear message to the fossil fuel industry and corporate utilities that they no longer have a free rein to profiteer off destroying our climate, injuring our communities, and trapping our workers in expanding 19th-century technology in the 21st century. It is past time to invest in a renewable, equitable future.”

“Buildings represent roughly one quarter of greenhouse gas emissions. Senator Kavanagh's bill recognizes that we cannot continue to do things the old way when we're seeing record numbers of climate impacts such as fires, storms, and other severe weather events around the nation," **said Rebecca Garrard, Legislative Director of Citizen Action of New York.** "We must continue to be a leader in addressing the climate crisis as the President heads to the Glasgow summit. We need policies which promote both quality housing and expand clean and renewable energy sources.”

“In 2014 New York State became one of four states in the nation to ban the extractive and pernicious practice of fracking, citing public health as the main reason. Unfortunately, fracked gas still presents a clear and present danger to communities throughout the State from Brownsville, Brooklyn to Buffalo. We killed the process, now we need to kill the switch and stop gassing New Yorkers, especially those residing in disadvantaged, environmental justice communities. Senator Kavanagh and AB Gallagher’s common-sense bill will be a key variable for New York’s renewable energy equation. By banning fracked gas hookups for all new building construction, these two lawmakers demonstrate their solidarity with frontline communities and climate justice, as well as their commitment to upholding the landmark Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act that mandates an expeditious reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and investment in electrification through renewable energy sources.” – **Anthony Karefa Rogers-Wright, Steering Committee Member of New York Renews and Director of Environmental Justice with New York Lawyers for the Public Interest.**

“To effectively fight the climate crisis, every residential and commercial building in New York will need to electrify. This legislation will help jumpstart that process and will also lead to significant health and economic benefits. We appreciate Senator Kavanagh’s and Assemblymember Gallagher’s efforts to move us quickly away from burning dirty and harmful fossil-fuels to heat

our home and businesses,” **said Conor Bambrick, Director of Climate Policy for Environmental Advocates NY.**

“To meet NY state’s climate goals and to ensure that every New Yorker has access to a safe and healthy home, it is important that our buildings and homes are powered with clean, safe, and renewable electricity and that this transition does not sacrifice housing and energy affordability in the process. This bill is critical to advancing an equitable clean energy transition.”
- **Ruth Ann Norton, President & CEO of Green & Healthy Homes Initiative**

“It’s time to take decisive action to end the era of fossil fuels in New York State. That starts with a ban on using fracked gas in new construction. Food & Water Watch is proud to support Senator Kavanagh’s visionary legislation and urge the legislature to make this crucial legislation a priority as we head into session next year,” **said Alex Beauchamp, Northeast Region Director at Food & Water Watch.**

“I represent scores of dedicated mothers, grandmothers, and caregivers working tirelessly in communities across NY advocating for climate solutions and environmental justice,” **said Megan Dyer of Mothers Out Front NY.** “Getting fossil fuels out of buildings is a top priority for our members. Replacing fossil fuel heating and cooking with high efficiency heat pumps and induction stoves improves health, safety, and comfort for our children, particularly those from disadvantaged communities. With fossil fuel prices going up, the lower operating cost of heat pumps is a great benefit for the many households struggling to pay their bills. I am particularly excited to see whole neighborhoods, towns and eventually cities connected to district geothermal systems. There’s simply no good reason a new building built today should be using fossil fuels - moms say no more!”

“In my day job, I run a non-profit devoted to education and outreach about heat pump technologies” **said Lisa Marshall, Director of HeatSmart Tompkins,** the pioneering community non-profit devoted to building electrification. “We’ve helped hundreds of households navigate the challenging process of retrofitting their heating systems often at great expense to the homeowner. In a few short years, demand for heat pumps has skyrocketed dramatically in our region upstate. Because of our grassroots efforts, our county leads the state in heat pump adoption, but in order to ramp up the speed of heat pump adoption equitably and affordably, much more must be done at the policy level. The Kavanagh/Gallagher bill is a nation-leading bill that we should pass in 2022 and that other states should emulate.”

"Buildings are the largest source of emissions in Rochester, and the second largest source of emissions in the Genesee-Finger Lakes region, **said Kristen L. Van Hooreweghe, Director, Collaborative Action.** “The "all electric buildings act" is a necessary first step in ensuring we can quickly and equitably transition away from fossil fuels and meet the goals of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. All New Yorkers deserve the right to clean, healthy, and affordable housing, and this legislation is an important step in that direction."

"The All-Electric Building Act will be a vital step to decarbonizing our future homes and businesses," **said Michaela Ciovacco, Campaign Coordinator of New Yorkers for Clean Power.** "The building sector is now the leading source of greenhouse gas emissions in NYS and gas is not only a hazard to the planet but to indoor air quality as well by exacerbating asthma and other respiratory ailments. With 2022 around the corner, we need to take bold steps towards New York's aggressive emissions reductions targets and improving public health."

In 2019, New York State passed the nation's most aggressive clean energy and climate agenda through the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (Chapter 106 of the Laws of 2019). This law puts New York on the path to reaching net-zero greenhouse gas emissions and includes several environmental justice components that provide benefits to historically disadvantaged communities affected by climate change.

The Climate and Community Investment Act (CCIA) seeks to continue addressing gas emissions and the harms that pollutants cause by directly reducing emissions, expanding clean and renewable energy, creating new jobs, and protecting environmental justice communities by taxing corporate polluters.