**Local Law 97 testimony Nov. 22. John Ingram – East Tenth St. NYC**

In 1982 my wife and I moved to East Tenth St. Manhattan, one block from the East River. On October 29, 2012, Hurricane Sandy hit New York. Over 65 years of living in homes along the New England coast I have experienced most of our major north east hurricanes and was well prepared to ride this one out. But Sandy was clearly different from previous storms. It was huge, and it was not swinging up the coast and out to the Atlantic as previous hurricanes had consistently done. Because of the Greenland Jetstream Block Sandy was being pushed westward directly towards NYC and New Jersey. In addition, the predicted arrival of Sandy’s massive storm surge would coincide with the high tide. On the evening of Sandy’s impact, I was waiting for the surge to come down our street from the East River. My front windows look north directly across the “Drydock Pool” and its park to the Con Ed Peaker plant on East 14th St. Looking out my window at 9:00 pm the power plant’s switches exploded right in front of me from the surge and soon all power was gone. Strangely the surge then came up Tenth Street from the West as the river flooded around to Ave. C and then went eastward. Our basement flooded, and we were out of power for several days.

What connects my story to the Buildings Bill is that Sandy was a forerunner of various climate related catastrophes now occurring and escalating in scale and intensity around the world. The Greenland Jet Stream Block that made Sandy an anomaly is formed by the melting of the Greenland ice sheet caused by decades of our Greenhouse Gas emissions. This rapidly melting ice sheet and its resulting atmospheric block is becoming a major force in activating changes in global weather and ocean currents. Along with several other critical points of system change around the world our planet is rapidly reinventing itself because of our emissions and has no concern for human survival.

As the species that continues to damage the climate that sustains all life, we have a closing window to end this disruption. The current scientific consensus is that a complete ending of Greenhouse Gas emissions in a few years will in fact quickly stop the momentum of Climate Change before it is too late.

We now have very little time to end the use of fossil fuels. The plunge in price of renewable energy is reason for some hope. Buildings in cities around the world are a major source of Green House Gas emissions. We have the technological ability to rapidly cut back these emissions from our cities, but these technologies must be put in place now. Real Estate and citizens will not do this on their own, but can gain in long term benefits if they do. New York’s Local Law 97 is a necessary precedent for the success of all cities in ending our addiction to fossil fuels and our self-destruction.

1. Mayor Adams should fully implement and enforce Local Law 97

2. Mayor Adams should set tight limits on the purchase of Renewable Energy

Credits (RECs).

3. Mayor Adams should enforce the pollution limits by assessing the law’s full

penalties on building owners whose properties pollute over their caps. Another

toothless housing law would be disregarded by building owners.