

LL97 Testimony Oct 23, 2023

My name is Rachel Landsberg. I am a mother, an educator and a member of Jewish Climate Action Network.

I have lived in New York City for over 25 years; I have chosen to raise a family here; I love this city and call it my home.

New York City is known for its skyscrapers – and there are about 1 million buildings of various sizes in our city. 70% of our green house gas emissions come from these buildings and we must address these emissions.

I was proud, as a New Yorker, when Local Law 97 was passed in 2019 to do just that. The people of this city understood that we needed to do our part.

Now, proposed regulatory rules threaten to weaken the law. As we feel the effects of climate change and severe weather in our communities here in NYC and across the globe it is more crucial than ever to demand a full enforcement of Local Law 97.

Mayor Adams, please stand together with the people of this city, rather than giving in to the real estate industry.

Ensure that the pollution limits are enforced and that penalties are imposed on building owners who do not comply.

See to it that Renewable Energy Credits are limited to 30% above a building's cap.

A Jewish story tells of an elder planting a carob tree, which will only begin to bear fruit 70 years later. The elder is asked, "Do you think you will live another seventy years and eat the fruit of this tree?" She replies, "Perhaps not. But, when I was born, I found many carob trees planted by those who came before me. I am planting trees for my children and grandchildren so they will be able to eat the fruit of these trees."

Mayor Adams, let us act now, let us plant fruit trees and pave a future for our children, let us fully enforce LL97.