Mayor Adams, I’m writing you as a longtime volunteer with Food & Water Watch, a dedicated environmental advocacy organization based in NYC and as a father terrified about our children’s vanishing prospects for a livable planet.

I’m one of growing numbers of fellow New Yorkers—parents, fellow activists, people of conscience, young and old—who are baffled and dismayed over your expressed intention to water down Local Law 97’s crucial provisions for protecting New Yorkers and helping stabilize our severely degraded Climate.

Consider: Local Law 97 rates as the world’s most important city-level Climate & Jobs law, and as such its provisions must be upheld and strongly implemented.

The all but ineffectual version of LL97 you’re proposing is totally unacceptable, giving building owners nearly unlimited leeway with zero fines or other sanctions when delaying compliance with the Law; additionally*,* it would actually encourage owners merely to purchase RECs in lieu of making the vital building energy infrastructure upgrades mandated by the Law.

And without the enforcement authority to compel these essential upgrades, virtually nothing LL97 was designed to achieve will get accomplished.

You’re threatening to squander a unique and critical historic opportunity, Mayor Adams, and for the most indefensible reasons. If you choose to pander to a few narrow, deep-pocketed corporate interests at the expense of the best interests of millions of New Yorkers and the very environment that sustains all of us, you’ll in effect render yourself unfit for NYC’s high office and the fiduciary mandate you’ve sworn to uphold.

You will literally be turning your back on the best interests of my son Ben and your own son Jordan, on any remaining prospects for hope that they and their generation might yet harbor for a livable Climate future.

You’ll also be rendering meaningless all the good work over many months accomplished by my dedicated friends and fellow advocates for healthier NY communities and Climate.

My question to you now: Will you continue your patronage of greed-driven CEOs and real estate power brokers who apparently care little for the catastrophic environmental consequences of their greed for NYC, our planet, and our kids’ very future?

Consider: Your weakening of LL97’s key provisions at the behest of narrow corporate interests would set off an ominous ripple effect throughout municipalities nationwide. If NYC fails to enact its much-vaunted Climate Law decisively, then what can we expect from America’s smaller urban communities, which so often take their cue from NYC in important matters of policy?

Your ill-considered “plan” to water down our unique and critically important LL97 could deal a mortal blow to our City’s prospects for effectively confronting the worsening Climate Emergency—again, with consequences for our kids that I can’t even think about.

As is, your “plan” amounts to little better than a shameful capitulation to a fossil-fuel addicted corporate capitalism whose toxic greed threatens to take down all of us, our children, and the world we all live in. Such a “plan” could tailspin into a great American tragedy, a collective failure of the will in this most critical of times.

So right now is the pivotal moment-- there’s still time to act for the benefit of all New Yorkers and the environment that sustains all of us.

Think of it: Renewable energy is in ascendancy, fossil fuels are in decline, and going forward LL97 can create thousands of new well-paying jobs while ensuring far cleaner and energy-efficient buildings with huge reductions both in toxic emissions and in energy costs.

Patience, commitment, and a long-term perspective are all that are needed to bear out LL97’s wealth of potential benefits for New York and New Yorkers.

Mayor Adams, the Climate Clock is ticking, windows of opportunity are closing, and there is literally no time left to delay. PLEASE: Carry out your critical fiduciary duty, commit to upholding and championing a maximally robust LL97 and ensuring its full and uncompromised implementation from inception to fulfillment.

We’ve got to move quickly, decisively, and with a fully empowered LL97 in order to give our kids any hope of a livable Climate future. Increasing floods, wildfires, destructive winds, all are part of our children’s prospective Climate future, and all are payback for my generation’s heedless corporate favoritism. Let’s turn this sick tendency on its head, put it in reverse, and now.

Local Law 97 still gives this father a sense of hope—but only if NYC’s Mayor chooses now to listen to reason and conscience and ignore the shrill promptings of cynicism and greed.

For all of us New Yorkers, our children, and generations to come I urge you from the heart: Do the right thing and give LL97 in its full undiluted form the chance it richly deserves.

Very sincerely,

David Vassar

**We are holding Mayor Adams accountable** for issuing strong rules that properly implement and enforce Local Law 97– our Green New Deal for buildings – so that it can continue cutting energy bills, creating thousands of jobs, and reducing air pollution, while helping New York meet its climate goals.

Mayor Adams should not do the bidding of the real estate industry & fully implement and enforce Local Law 97

Mayor Adams should set tight limits on the purchase of Renewable Energy Credits (RECs).

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.

**COPY OF EMAIL FROM DOB**

This email is a confirms your registration as speaker for the Department of Building’s public hearing scheduled for Tuesday 10/24/2023 at 11:00 am.  This remote hearing is for:  Proposed Rules for Article 320 Compliance and Penalty Framework and Article 321 Compliance and Penalty Framework.   The link to get into the virtual public hearing is <https://tinyurl.com/LL97Art320Meeting> and we will begin promptly at 11:00 am. Please read the items below to help ensure a smooth and organized hearing:

 Please make sure that you sign in to the hearing with the same name you used to register previously so that we can call on you. When the hearing commences, we will announce the name of the next speaker and the speaker to come after.  If you are signed in using a different name, please email the DOB Rules email address (**dobrules@buildings.nyc.gov**) and provide the name you originally used and the name you are currently signed in under.

* All cameras and microphones will be kept muted until your turn to speak comes up. Each speaker will be allowed (2) minutes to speak.  A warning will be given when 30 seconds remain in the allotted time.  Please keep within the specified time to allow all attendees the opportunity to speak.  Any additional comments you wish to make can be submitted in writing through the NYC Rules Portal by the end of the day on 10/24/2023.
* A real-time Spanish translation will be available for this hearing.  To access the Spanish audio channel, click on the “more” button with the three dots appearing at the top of your screen.  Then choose the “Languages and Speech” option and select Spanish.
* Be aware that additional instructions may be provided when the hearing begins.

Thank you again for all of your advocacy on LL97 - It is our most significant climate and jobs law! Let's send a clear message to Mayor Adams that he must fully implement and enforce the law.