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**Written testimony submitted as a comment on the Local Law 97 rulemaking as addressed in the Department of Buildings’ October 24, 2023 hearing**

My name is Wendy Seligson.   I am the co-director of the Jewish Climate Action Network and a member of the Bronx Climate and Environmental Justice Network.  I am submitting testimony today because I am shocked that under Mayor Adams, the Building Department is proposing rules which will eviscerate Local Law 97 today in its immediate implementation and by setting a dangerous precedent for the future.

Jewish tradition calls us to revere our planet, to recognize it as a living dynamic being, having value beyond any one generation, and to fight for its survival for the generations to come.

In our tradition, the story is told of Honi who meets a woman who is planting a carob tree. He asks her when it will bear fruit and she answers that it will bear fruit in 70 years. He asks her why she is doing this and she explains: ***Just as my ancestors planted trees for me, I am planting trees for my children and grandchildren so they will have carob to eat.***

I too have a young grandson and I am concerned about his future and the future of his generation. LL97 will dramatically improve their future, by reducing emissions now that damage our planet, and create good green jobs, lower energy costs and improve the health of New Yorkers. But only if we adopt rules to achieve this.

I urge you to fix the flaws in the proposed rules.  First, landlords who are in the two-year delay program should be required to make deeper cuts in the future to compensate for their delay.  This is important for today and in setting the right precedent for the future. Second, the renewable energy credit loophole which allows big building owners to avoid retrofitting their buildings should be limited to 30% over a building’s pollution limit. This is the amount the LL97 Advisory Council unanimously recommended, and Mayor Adams should embrace the wisdom of this recommendation and incorporate it into the rules.