

October 26, 2022

Commissioner Eric A. Ulrich
Chief Sustainability Officer Gina Bocra
Executive Director and Chief Strategy Officer Marc Wollemborg
Deputy Commissioner of Sustainability Lauren Popa
Director of Sustainability Enforcement Holly Savoia
New York City Department of Buildings

CC: Rohit Aggarwala, Chief Climate Officer and Commissioner
New York City Department of Environmental Protection

Re: In support of full implementation of Local Law 97

Dear Mr. Ulrich, Ms. Bocra, Mr. Wollemborg, Ms. Popa, and Ms. Savoia,

My name is Georgi Page and I am a resident of Crown Heights as well as a senior organizer for 350Brooklyn, a group that fights locally against the global climate crisis. I am writing in reference to the proposed rules on Local Law 97 issued October 11, 2022.

Our group of 1000s of volunteer activists in Brooklyn have taken Local Law 97 on as our top priority and we are laser-focused on keeping this law the strongest that it can be, out of concern for our Planet and our fellow citizens of New York City. I urge you to reject and re-draft any rules that do not set the highest possible standards and help us achieve upgrades for all of New York City's large buildings. **We cannot kick the can down the road and enable the dysfunction to continue by qualifying natural gas and hydrogen as 'clean energy' - not only are they NOT clean, they will keep us hooked on energy as an expensive, rationed commodity that is controlled by a few corporations bent on extracting every penny out of our economy and keeping us hooked on their toxic energy supplies!**

...You know, sometimes, in drilling down into the details and nuance of legislation or the process it's easy to get lost and sort of forget where we are, the big picture.

Many of us are slowly, almost imperceptibly saying goodbye to our dreams because of the looming climate catastrophe. That's right: no more dreams, they are obsolete! They are

just one more relic of a time when there was a certain future we could count on. Who is killing our dreams? Fossil fuel companies and their enablers, like the Real Estate Board of NY.

For our health, our planet, as well as our long-term energy efficiency and prosperity we **must** help building owners help themselves. AND we have to look inward at some of our own new policy, like Canadian Hydro. Are Renewable Energy Credits worth everything we are sacrificing - are they worth even one life? Even one child's dreams? I don't think so.

So as we sit here and negotiate REC percentages - - I ask you to remember what every percentage point actually represents. And then I ask you to do the math and find alternate financing for renewable energy, then find a way to lower REC availability to zero over the coming years.

Finally, as a special message to our mayor: I understand that our laws must work for ALL of our citizens - even building owners - but there is no point in deferring these upgrades and creating a greater problem to be resolved at greater expense 'down the line'.

As 350Brooklyn has been tabling every summer and as we have talked to 100s of New York City residents many of them understand that some of the upgrades we are asking building owners to perform are reasonable and will pay returns in the long run.

One of our members spoke today about a renovation she and her partner undertook for their 46,000 square foot, Civil War-era building, 17 years ago, as small, independent building owners. Without the mandate of a law they stood up and **held themselves** accountable, pulling together the funding for solar panels, double-paned windows and radiant floor heating among other technologies. Their solar panels were paid off within 7 years and over the ensuing years until now they have saved approximately \$664,000 dollars for their most-used energy type: natural gas.

DATA:

- I recently requested an estimate for the installation of solar panels on a 3500SF property in Brooklyn - this proposal projected that we would save \$44 thousand dollars over the next 25 years

My conclusion: The city must 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 any building owners whose properties pollute over their caps. Another toothless housing law would be disregarded by building owners.

The Real Estate industry has extracted enough from our city - and that is not what it means to be a citizen.

Sincerely,

Georgi Page
Sr. Organizer
350Brooklyn, City Action Committee