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Comments by New York Interfaith Power and Light on the Proposed Scope of the NYS Energy Plan We applaud the efforts of New York to once again formulate a cohesive plan to move forward to be responsive to the states, the nations and even the worlds needs for energy. NYIPL would urge that there be an enhanced focus of the state energy plan on meeting these needs in a manner that minimizes environmental impacts and assures that the poor and least privileged do not bear an unfair portion of the burden. The mission of New York Interfaith Power and Light is to support congregations of all faiths in their actions to curb global warming and protect the sacredness of the earth. To that end we have strongly supported the creation and use of renewable energy sources in meeting the energy demands of New York State. To be responsive to curtailing the impacts of global warming we have long supported the goal of an 80% reduction in Greenhouse Gas emissions by 2050. The failure of the states, the nation and the world to meet this goal is anticipated to have environmental consequences that we cannot fully comprehend. The need to act in a decisive manner to respond to meeting this goal must be a guiding force in the preparation of this plan. Please finalize a plan that includes an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. We look forward in your development of this plan and its response to the minimization of environmental impacts of global warming in a just manner. Sincerely, Janna Steig Watkins Executive Director New York Interfaith Power and Light 8328 Preserve Parkway Manlius, NY 13104 Below is a collection of quotes from diverse religious leaders, demonstrating strong agreement in the faith mandate to protect the earth and its environment. The impact of climate change will fall disproportionately on those who have contributed the least to this problem the worlds poor. Jesus said, What you do unto the least of these, you do to me. The Rev. Dr. Joel C. Hunter, Board of Directors, National Association of Evangelicals Climate Change is the greatest human induced crisis facing our world today. It is totally indiscriminate of race, culture, class, nationality or religious belief. It affects every living organism on the planet- including us. Archbishop Desmond Tutu To commit a crime against the natural world is a sin. . . for humans to degrade the integrity of Earth by causing changes in its climate, by stripping the Earth of its natural forests, or destroying its wetlands . . . for humans to contaminate the Earths waters, its land, its air, and its life, with poisonous substances . . . these are sins. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I My dear friends, Gods creation is one and it is good. The concerns for non-violence, sustainable development, justice and peace, and care for our environment are of vital importance for humanity. Pope Benedict XVI This acknowledgment of global warming, and the Churchs commitment to ameliorating it, is a part of the ongoing discovery of Gods revelation to humanity and a call to a fuller

understanding of the scriptural imperative of loving our neighbor. The Most Rev. Dr. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop of the US Episcopal Church
Global warming is not just a scientific or political issue it is a moral issue. It is time for the moral voice of religion to speak up loudly to demand action. Rabbi David Saperstein, Director of Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism
Muslims heed the call to protect the earth and its inhabitants. We are committed to working with our Christian and Jewish brothers and sisters to reduce global warming pollution. Dr. Sayyid M. Syeed, Secretary General, Islamic Society of North America

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Climate Change