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October 24, 2023

Testimony before New York City Department of Buildings on Local Law 97 Proposed Rules

My name is Gale A. Brewer and I am the New York City Council Member for District 6, representing most of the Upper West Side, part of Clinton and all of Central Park in Manhattan. I am writing to express my support for the proposed rules associated with Local Law 97 outlined by the Department of Buildings. This is a crucial step in implementing the visionary goals of Local Law 97, which aims to achieve net-zero emissions from our largest buildings by 2050.

There are several reasons why I believe the proposed rules are worthy of endorsement:

1. The proposed rules wisely encourage early electrification in all applicable buildings. The incentive is available to all covered buildings and will help motivate early electrification in buildings that otherwise don't have to take action until the 2030 compliance period.
2. The clarification provided in the proposed rules regarding "good faith" efforts promotes a smoother transition by providing additional time to meet the 2024 targets.
3. The proposed rules strike a commendable balance between addressing the unique challenges faced by various types of buildings, including co-ops and condos, and the imperative to reduce climate-warming emissions. This nuanced approach ensures that compliance is feasible while maintaining the integrity of Local Law 97.
4. The commitment to providing technical and financial support to building owners is a crucial aspect of successful implementation. This approach recognizes the diverse circumstances of building owners and aims to facilitate compliance in the most cost-effective manner.
5. The proposed rules are poised to unleash a wave of investment in building upgrades. This not only supports the goals of Local Law 97 but also creates local, high-quality jobs, improves air quality, and enhances the comfort and quality of life for residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.