



May 12, 2026

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to express our strong support for [S8585/A9279](#) and [S9942/A3842A](#), the Insure Our Communities Act, and to urge you to co-sponsor both critical pieces of legislation.

Home insurance in New York is becoming increasingly unaffordable and difficult to obtain as insurers pass the rising costs of climate change-driven extreme weather disasters on to residents. Homeowners statewide are paying [\\$1,000 more per year on average than in 2020](#). Renters are also feeling the pinch, as landlords pass on rising property insurance costs through higher rents — worsening the state’s housing affordability crisis. [Premiums for multifamily buildings have more than doubled in Brooklyn and increased more than 50% in Manhattan and Queens since 2020.](#)

The increasing frequency and severity of extreme weather disasters, like Hurricanes Ida and Sandy and the deadly flooding events of 2025, are [directly contributing to rising premiums](#) and leading insurers to [drop people from their policies](#).

There’s no mystery who’s at fault for these harms. The largest oil and gas corporations have known for decades that the continued use of their products would cause **"potentially**

**catastrophic events.”** Instead of disclosing these risks and changing their business model, they waged a [decades-long campaign to deceive the public](#) about the dangers of fossil fuels in order to stall energy transition and protect their profits. Meanwhile, insurance companies are not only reacting to climate risks but also contributing to them by underwriting and investing in fossil fuel projects that accelerate the crisis.

### **How is it fair that everyday New Yorkers are shouldering the costs of extreme weather disasters while the companies most responsible for the problem pay nothing?**

S8585/A9279 would help keep home insurance in New York affordable and accessible by giving the state more tools to hold major oil and gas corporations financially accountable for their role in worsening climate disasters that drive up insurance costs. The bill would **empower the Attorney General** to pursue legal action against these companies after a climate disaster to recover funds that the state can use to **reimburse residents** facing higher premiums, strengthen the state’s insurer-of-last-resort program for those unable to obtain private coverage, and help **stabilize insurance markets** so that communities at high risk from sea level rise and storm surges can continue to access property insurance.

The Insure Our Communities Act establishes requirements for insurers to **invest in historically underserved communities** by applying New York’s state Community Reinvestment Act to property insurance companies, and mandates that insurance companies licensed in New York adopt and **implement science-based climate pollution reductions** in line with the Paris Climate Agreement and the state’s Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). It would **prohibit insurers from underwriting new oil, gas, and coal projects**—an especially impactful measure given the global reach of New York-based insurers—and require public disclosure of rates and coverage at the census tract level to increase transparency and prevent unchecked discrimination. The Act also **bars insurers from investing in fossil fuel companies**, cutting off a major source of financing for corporations like Exxon that contribute to climate harm. The Act also better **protects New Yorkers from discriminatory insurance practices** by prohibiting the denial of insurance coverage solely based on where a property is located, and gives New York the ability to place moratoriums on policy nonrenewals following an extreme weather disaster - providing critical stability for affected policyholders when they need insurance the most.

Together, these bills represent a comprehensive strategy to protect New Yorkers by:

- Holding polluters accountable for the damage they have caused
- Preventing insurers from exacerbating the climate crisis
- Increasing transparency and fairness in insurance practices
- Stabilizing insurance markets and safeguarding access to coverage

As federal disaster response becomes increasingly uncertain, New York must take decisive action to protect its residents. These bills ensure that the costs of the climate crisis are shared more equitably and that our state is better prepared for the challenges ahead.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to co-sponsor S8585/A9279 and S9942/A3842A. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to the well-being of all New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations

350 Brooklyn

Affordable Homeownership Foundation Inc

Americans for Financial Reform

Center for Climate Integrity (CCI)

Climate Defenders

Consumer Watchdog

Earth Ethics, Inc.

Green America

GreenFaith

Mazaska Talks

National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC)

New York Communities for Change

Oil and Gas Action Network

Professional Staff Congress - CUNY (PSC - CUNY)

Public Citizen

Rainforest Action Network

Stand.earth

Stop The Money Pipeline

The New York Progressive Action Network (NYPAN)

Third Act NYC

Third Act Upstate New York

Western New York Law Center