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March 30, 2021

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NEW YORKERS FOR CLEAN WATER & JOBS COALITION HOPEFUL THAT FINAL BUDGET WILL INCLUDE \$3 BILLION ENVIRONMENTAL BOND ACT

Coalition Thanks Chairs of Environmental Conservation for their Advocacy

Coalition Making Final Push for Measure That Would Support 65,000 Jobs, Protect Clean Water and Address Climate Change

NEW YORK – New Yorkers for Clean Water & Jobs coalition is hopeful that the final budget will include the reauthorization of the Environmental Bond Act, which will commit \$3 billion to create jobs, protect clean water and address climate change, including \$1 billion for environmental justice communities. The Senate one-house budget included the Bond Act and Assemblyman Steve Englebright introduced stand-alone legislation in the Assembly.

“The Bond Act is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to spur a more green and resilient future for New York. From water quality and storm resiliency projects to green construction that will fight climate change, the Bond Act can create 65,000 good-paying jobs that will help re-energize our economy. This investment is pivotal to propelling our region’s recovery from the COVID crisis, while solving the serious environmental threats that confront our State,” **said Senator Todd Kaminsky.**

“A clean healthy environment is essential for people to thrive. Protecting our environment improves our quality of life. The Environmental Bond will help ensure and safeguard New Yorkers access to clean air, clean water, open space and a healthful environment. These funds will create jobs, reduce pollution and attract tourism and business to New York, while also addressing climate change,” **said Assemblyman Steve Englebright.**

“2020 was a year of loss for New York State, and now is the time to begin rebuilding the state. The Environmental Bond Act will help us get New Yorkers back to work and make necessary investments in our environment,” **said Jessica Ottney Mahar, New York Policy and Strategy Director at The Nature**

Conservancy. “We thank Assemblyman Steve Englebright and Senator Todd Kaminsky for their advocacy on this important issue. Now, we need to move forward and include the Bond Act in the final budget.”

“Communities of color have been disproportionately harmed by COVID-19 pandemic, the economic crisis, and the intensifying climate crisis. By including the Environmental Bond Act in this year’s budget, state lawmakers have the chance to put tens of thousands of people back to work in good-paying jobs, reduce harmful pollution, and help communities of color hardest hit by COVID-19 and climate change prepare for extreme heat and frequent flooding. This is exactly the kind of stimulus we need right now,” **said Sonal Jessel, Director of Policy, WE ACT for Environmental Justice.**

“The Environmental Bond Act is key to New York’s long-term economic recovery. It’s a once-in-a-generation opportunity to put 65,000 New Yorkers back to work with good-paying jobs, all while supporting billions of dollars in project spending that will reduce flooding, support clean water and mitigate the impacts of climate change across the state. Now is the time to build New York back stronger and more resilient than ever, and the Bond Act is key to getting us there,” **said Vincent Albanese, Director of Policy and Public Affairs at the New York State Laborers’ Organizing Fund.**

“By including the \$3 billion Environmental Bond Act in the budget, we’ll be making a down payment on New York’s future,” **said Julie Tighe, President of the New York League of Conservation Voters.** “After a tough year for New Yorkers, we need to take this important step to protect our clean water, mitigate the impacts of climate change, all while putting thousands of New Yorkers back to work and investing in disadvantaged communities. We thank Assemblyman Steve Englebright and Senator Todd Kaminsky for their continued commitment to protecting the environment; now, we look forward to working on getting this environmental priority done this year.”

“We should all support including the Environmental Bond Act into the final budget and immediately prioritize water infrastructure projects to fuel an economic boom and work our way out of the dire hole we currently find ourselves in. Investing in clean water jobs is a smart and immediate way to get people back to work and to create a better, stronger environment built to last. It’s a no brainer,” **said Long Island Contractors’ Association Executive Director and NYRIC President Marc Herbst.**

“Emerging from a pandemic that shined a light on inequities and hastened unemployment across the state, it is imperative that the Legislature pass the Environmental Bond Act in order to ensure all New Yorkers have access to clean water and the promise of good jobs,” **said Mark Rupp, Director, State-Federal Policy and Affairs, Environmental Defense Fund.**

“New Yorkers want to support infrastructure that provides a clean environment, quality parks, and good paying jobs, but first the State has to adopt a budget that reflects those priorities,” **says Carter Strickland, New York State Director for The Trust for Public Land.** “Our communities are depending on State leadership.”

“The time for an environmental bond act is now,” **said Kim Elliman, president and CEO of the Open Space Institute.** “Over the past year, people from all over the state voted with their feet as they flocked to parks and open space for their physical, mental, and emotional health. Today, New Yorkers deserve the right to vote to enact a once-in-a-generation initiative to improve public access to the outdoors, protect water, fight climate change, mitigate the effects of extreme weather, and save wildlife habitat through smart and effective land conservation.”

"The Environmental Bond Act provides a once in a lifetime opportunity to protect the environment and invest in a healthier, more secure future for all New Yorkers," **said Andy Bicking, Director of Government Relations and Public Policy for Scenic Hudson.** "The need in the Hudson Valley is great - clean water, conserving productive family farms, confronting the impacts of climate change and protecting and connecting people to New York's natural treasures are essential to create opportunities for our communities and future generations. Scenic Hudson urges the Governor and Legislature to place the measure on the November 2021 ballot."

"Communities in New York State are already suffering from climate change. Past disasters, such as Hurricane Sandy, and our recent experience with Covid-19, have laid bare the reality that these events disproportionately hurt the most vulnerable populations," **said Amy Chester, Managing Director of Rebuild by Design.** "The Bond Act would give communities the resources they need to build infrastructure that will address climate change, while creating 65,000 jobs, and put New York on a path to recovery."

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New Yorkers for Clean Water & Jobs

New Yorkers for Clean Water & Jobs is a broad coalition formed to demonstrate the vast support for New York environmental funding and programs that protect clean water and air, create jobs, and address the climate crisis. For more information on the website, please visit:

www.cleanwaterandjobs.org. Follow us on social media: [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).