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SENATOR KAMINSKY, ASSEMBLYMAN ENGLEBRIGHT, LONG ISLAND COUNTY EXECUTIVES JOIN NEW YORKERS FOR CLEAN WATER AND JOBS COALITION TO APPLAUD REINSTATEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL BOND ACT

\$3 Billion New York Bond Act to Create Jobs, Protect Clean Water, Address Climate Change, And Create New Parks

Event Comes on Heels of Earth Week Celebrations to Recognize New York's Environmental Commitments

LONG ISLAND, NY – Today, Senator Todd Kaminsky, Assemblyman Steve Englebright, and Long Island County Executives Steve Bellone and Laura Curran joined the New Yorkers for Clean Water & Jobs Coalition to celebrate the reinstatement of the \$3 billion Environmental Bond Act on the 2022 statewide ballot. Earlier this month, the Environmental Bond Act reauthorization was included in the final budget and will appear on the November 2022 ballot.

The Environmental Bond Act would commit \$3 billion to create jobs, protect clean water, and address climate change. It will help to fund critical environmental projects on Long Island, such as habitat restoration in Mastic Beach, East Hampton, Sunken Meadow State Park, and the Pine Barrens. Bond Act funds will replace thousands of polluting septic systems and modernize critical infrastructure such as road crossings vulnerable to flooding in East Hampton and Southold. The Bond Act would also enable communities to reimagine their coastlines, help interested homeowners and businesses relocate, and restore natural areas to better protect people, roads, and buildings from flooding.

"With the Bond Act's passage, New York has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to protect our environment, fortify our communities from extreme weather, purify our water and create 65,000 good-paying green jobs. This \$3 billion investment in our state's infrastructure will continue New York's national leadership in combatting climate change and safeguarding our natural resources for generations. I was proud to have shepherded the Bond Act to passage alongside Assemblyman Englebright, and look forward to seeing its overwhelming approval from voters in November 2022," **said Senator Todd Kaminsky.**

"Placing this Environmental Bond Act before the voters will enable them to directly participate in securing a healthy future for our state. Investing into open space, new parkland, protection from floods

and job training for renewable energy installations are just some of the numerous significant environmental and economic benefits that will be enabled by passage of this measure,” **said Assemblymember Steven Englebright.**

“Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper is thrilled at the Legislature's commitment to the reauthorization of the Environmental Bond Act in the 2022 Budget. If passed, the Environmental Bond Act funding will be a significant step towards addressing known and emerging threats to our Great Lakes region. There is overwhelming need and demand for this type of dedicated investment to protect our regional water quality, ensure coastal and climate resiliency, and restore our ecosystems from decades of environmental abuse and neglect,” **said Jill Jedlicka, Executive Director, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper.**

“As a result of the leadership in the legislature and administration, New York is poised to take a huge step to build a more climate resilient future for communities and ecosystems across the state. On this Earth Day Week, we are proud to stand with a broad coalition in support of the Environmental Bond Act that will bring clean water, good jobs, environmental justice and coastal resilience to New York for generations to come,” **said Mark Rupp, director, state-federal policy, Environmental Defense Fund.**

“The reauthorization of the Bond Act signals a positive move toward much needed continued investment in supporting nature's infrastructure. As we move toward irreversible tipping points with climate change, we applaud New York's leadership in once again recognizing that this Bond Act comes with the halo benefit to labor and industry,” **said Suzie Ross, Chairperson & Co-founder of Green Ossining.**

“The Land Trust Alliance applauds Gov. Andrew Cuomo, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Sen. Todd Kaminsky and Assemblyman Steve Englebright for their moves toward making historic investments in land conservation and the environment by advancing a bond act to the November 2022 ballot. A \$3 billion environmental bond act would advance the Empire State's proud tradition of conserving and restoring open spaces to benefit local economies and jobs. Land trusts stand ready to help protect critical water resources, prime agricultural lands, forests and urban open spaces and enhance public access for recreation,” **said Land Trust Alliance Senior Program Manager Meme Hanley.**

“On Long Island, our environment is our economy, and the Environmental Bond Act will create new jobs and spur economic growth while protecting our water and making our region more resilient to severe weather,” **said Matt Cohen, Vice President of Government Affairs of the Long Island Association.**

“Our climate recovery goes hand-in-hand with our economic recovery. The \$3 billion Environmental Bond Act will help combat climate change and create good-paying, green jobs. It will put thousands of New Yorkers back to work protecting our water and open spaces while prioritizing frontline communities. The investments will fund crucial coastal restoration and resiliency projects so that Long Island is better able to withstand extreme weather and flooding. We thank Senator Kaminsky and Assemblymember Englebright for championing the Bond Act,” **said Julie Tighe, President of the New York League of Conservation Voters.**

“This environmental Bond Act is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to achieve big environmental solutions and 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. We thank and congratulate Senator Kaminsky, Assemblyman Englebright and all their colleagues for their

strong and unfailing commitment to protecting natural resources here on Long Island and throughout the state,” **said Kim Elliman, president and CEO of the Open Space Institute.**

“As we look to the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are thrilled that this year’s state budget includes an historic \$3 billion Environmental Bond Act, which will go before the voters of the state in 2022. Millions of New Yorkers discovered or rekindled their appreciation for our state’s parks, trails, and shared greenspace over the past year. The Bond Act will go a long way in protecting these resources by creating new parks, protecting clean water, and addressing climate change, as well as creating new jobs,” **said Robin Dropkin, Executive Director of Parks & Trails New York.**

“The \$3 billion Bond Act is an investment in the environment and economy of New York State. The Bond Act will create an infusion of funding to confront the realities of climate change, build the state’s climate change resilience and infrastructure, protect open space, and create tens of thousands of jobs. The timing could not be better for such smart, ambitious public policy,” **said Peter Bauer, Executive Director of Protect the Adirondacks.**

“The Restore Mother Nature Bond Act is a once in a generation opportunity to fight climate change, protect clean water, and restore wildlife habitat. We commend state leaders for their commitment to the environment and look forward to building support to pass the bond act in 2022,” **said Jeremy Cherson, Legislative Advocacy Manager at Riverkeeper.**

“The Environmental Bond Act offers New Yorker a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in making our communities more sustainable. We are facing a multitude of challenges including aging infrastructure, climate impacts, and economic losses due to the pandemic. The Bond Act will empower New York to build back smarter, make progress on our climate goals. and support new jobs in the green economy,” **said Tracy Brown, Regional Director, Water Protection at Save the Sound.**

“Senator Kaminsky and Assemblyman Englebright have secured their legacy as environmental champions by assuring the Clean Water and Jobs Bond Act will be on the November 2022 ballot. They have provided voters with an opportunity to make a historic investment in their communities from the Long Island Sound, to the Hudson River and beyond, that will benefit residents for generations,” **said Andy Bicking, Director of Government Relations and Public Policy, Scenic Hudson.**

"The Trust for Public Land applauds the strong commitment shown by the Legislature in reauthorizing the Environmental Bond Act, which could pass for the first time in 25 years. This measure will help protect New York communities against the impacts of climate change, create infrastructure jobs, and increase equitable access to parks and the outdoors through projects like the Long Island Greenway," **said Carter Strickland, New York State Director, The Trust for Public Land.**

“The Nature Conservancy is thrilled the first environmental Bond Act in more than 25 years will be going on the ballot in November 2022. We are grateful for the ongoing leadership of Senator Todd Kaminsky and Assemblymember Steven Englebright. Passing the Bond Act next year would bring Long Island many significant opportunities to protect clean water, reduce pollution, preserve critical wildlife habitat, and help Long Island communities protect residents from rising seas, storms, and flooding,” **said Jessica Ottney Mahar, New York Policy and Strategy Director, The Nature Conservancy.**

“The reauthorization of New York State’s Environmental Bond Act enables us to invest in infrastructure and other measures to address the climate crisis as well as restore and protect our drinking water and

natural areas. These investments would support 65,000 jobs and strengthen local economies struggling to emerge from the pandemic, while safeguarding our most vulnerable communities from extreme heat waves, catastrophic storms, and other impacts of climate change – all of which hit low-income communities and communities of color the hardest,” **said Sonal Jessel, Director of Policy at WE ACT for Environmental Justice.**

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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](#).