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NEW YORKERS FOR CLEAN WATER AND JOBS APPLAUDS GOVERNOR HOCHUL'S \$4 BILLION BOND ACT PROPOSAL, LARGEST IN HISTORY

Executive Budget Proposal Includes Landmark Funding to Create Jobs and Protect Clean Water, State Parks, and Family Farms

NEW YORK – New Yorkers for Clean Water and Jobs coalition is thrilled Governor Hochul has proposed a \$4 billion Environmental Bond Act, the largest ballot measure in New York history, to conserve natural resources, reduce emissions, advance environmental justice, protect family farms, and prepare New York for climate change. A 2020 [economic analysis](#) found that a \$3 billion environmental bond measure would support 65,000 local jobs and generate \$6.7 billion in project spending across the state. Now that the measure is \$4 billion, the economic effects and number of jobs created will be even greater.

If enacted by voters this November, the Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Bond Act would safeguard clean drinking water, reduce air pollution, modernize infrastructure, improve parks, and reduce climate risks. In the face of rising seas, extreme heat, and frequent flooding, these historic investments are critical to New York's health, safety, and prosperity.

"New Yorkers for Clean Water and Jobs commends Governor Kathy Hochul for proposing a \$4 billion Clean Water, Clean Air, Green Jobs Bond Act for 2022 general election ballot. If passed by voters in November, it will be the largest bond act in New York history and enable New York State to make life-changing investments in communities throughout the state, said **Jessica Ottney Mahar, The Nature Conservancy's New York Policy and Strategy Director**. "We thank the Governor for taking quick and meaningful action to safeguard clean water, create local jobs, improve parks, conserve wildlife habitat, and save lives by protecting New Yorkers from deadly heat and flooding."

Julie Tighe, President of the New York League of Conservation Voters said, "Governor Hochul is taking historic action to meet the moment on climate change with the landmark \$4 billion Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act. This is critical to invest in proven solutions that support communities across the State and prioritize the health of every New Yorker and our environment, support disadvantaged communities, create tens of thousands of jobs, and jumpstart the transition to a green economy."

"Everyone has the human right to clean water, clean air, and a healthy environment where we live, play, pray, and learn", said **Sonal Jessel, Director of Policy at WE ACT for Environmental Justice**. "We thank Governor Hochul for taking bold action to put the \$4 billion Bond Act in the State's 2022 budget. The dedicated funding will allow New York to prepare for climate change and promote environmental health with projects such as improving wastewater infrastructure, flooding mitigation, parks and green space improvements, and lead service line replacements."

Scenic Hudson's Director of Government Relations and Public Policy Andy Bicking said, "Governor Hochul's bond act proposal is great. The state continues to grapple with pressure on drinking water supplies, severe storm events and a high level of demand on parks and open space, and this nation-leading investment keeps us on the right track. Scenic Hudson is eager to continue its collaboration with New York State and Hudson Valley communities and use the bond act to address the challenges we face and invest in the natural resources that are the foundation of our health and prosperity, especially in communities that are disproportionately challenged by our changing climate."

"We are thrilled that Governor Kathy Hochul is providing a once in a generation opportunity to invest in clean water, clean air and fight climate change by including a \$4 billion environmental bond act in the NYS budget. This funding will improve coastal resiliency, protect open space, upgrade infrastructure, restore habitat, and combat harmful pollution. Long Island is on the front lines of climate change and we need help in protecting our mainland! Coastal communities need to be able to better protect ourselves from reoccurring damaging storms and weather events. The Environmental Bond Act will aid our municipalities, schools, businesses and our communities in fighting climate change at the local level," stated **Adrienne Esposito, Executive Director, Citizens Campaign for the Environment**.

"Birds are telling us that we need to double down on our commitment to the environment in order to adapt to the impacts of climate change. The Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act will provide critical funding to conserve and restore the places birds and people need, and keep them safe in a changing world," said **Erin McGrath, Policy Manager for Audubon New York**. "We applaud Governor Hochul's proposal to increase the Bond Act to \$4 billion, which will allow this important measure to have an even greater impact, and ask the Assembly and Senate to support the increased Bond Act in their budget proposals."

"The Trust for Public Land applauds Governor Hochul's Environmental Bond Act budget proposal that will allow millions of New Yorkers to benefit from quality close-to-home parks and stormwater control measures, ensuring our communities will be better prepared for a changing climate," said **Carter Strickland, VP of the Mid-Atlantic Region and New York State Director for The Trust for Public Land**. "Bold investment like this is critical to the strength and health of our state moving forward and we are hopeful these measures can begin to be implemented this fall."

"The proposed bond act is a win-win-win opportunity for all New Yorkers," said **John T. Cooney, Jr., Executive Director of the Construction Industry Council of Westchester & Hudson Valley, Inc.** "Gov. Kathy Hochul's call to action to create a \$4 billion green bond act to fund environmental infrastructure projects is unparalleled in the history of New York State. This referendum will further protect our communities from pollution and the ravages of climate change. The bond act will help protect our treasured waterways to ensure they serve as vital economic and recreational assets for both clean water and drinking water. Finally, this bond act will create meaningful employment for New Yorkers in tens of thousands of family-supporting jobs to stimulate and revitalize our state economy for everyone's long-term benefit."

"As storms like Ida and Sandy have made abundantly clear, we cannot wait for climate action," said **Kate Boicourt, Director, Climate Resilient Coasts & Watersheds for the NY-NJ region for Environmental Defense Fund**. "By making a historic commitment to investing in natural solutions to the climate crisis, Governor Hochul is addressing multiple challenges as once – reducing flooding and extreme heat, promoting environmental justice, cleaning our air and water, creating jobs and protecting our ecosystems for fish and wildlife. This wise investment will pay dividends in public and environmental health and lowered climate risks."

"The Land Trust Alliance applauds Gov. Kathy Hochul for her historic commitment to our environment," said **Land Trust Alliance Senior Program Manager Meme Hanley**. "Championing and encouraging voters to pass a \$4 billion environmental bond act maintains the Empire State's proud tradition of protecting its natural resources while boosting local economies and jobs. These new funds would help empower land trusts across New York to protect critical water resources along with prime agricultural lands, forests and urban open spaces. This is how we enhance public access for recreation and prepare our state for stronger storms and extreme heat."

"The \$4 billion Environmental Bond Act included in Governor Hochul's Executive Budget presents the opportunity to provide much needed additional funds for permanent farmland protection, to support farmers in adopting soil health practices, and to complement the vital work performed to advance these and other priorities in the Environmental Protection Fund. American Farmland Trust, an organization that counts farmers and environmentalists as our members, applauds the Governor for her leadership in growing New York's ability to save the land that sustains us in this FY23 executive budget proposal, and looks forward to working with the legislature and with New Yorkers to see it implemented," said **Erica Goodman, New York Regional Director, American Farmland Trust**.

Kate Kurera, Deputy Director of Environmental Advocates NY said, "We're excited that Governor Hochul has announced an increase of the proposed NY Bond Act to \$4 billion. These funds are crucial in helping our economy recover from the Covid-19 pandemic by creating and supporting tens of thousands of green jobs. A Bond Act investment will support a variety of critical environmental projects and priorities, including electrification of our transportation sector, protecting source waters, ensuring communities across the state have the tools to withstand a changing climate, creating and maintaining more greenspaces, and so much more. We look forward to working with the Legislature and Governor to ensure this amount and its positive impacts are fully realized and getting the word out to New Yorkers to ensure they are aware of this opportunity on the November ballot."

Jeremy Cherson, Senior Manager of Government Affairs for Riverkeeper said, "Thank you Governor Hochul for moving to expand a once-in-a-generation Clean air, clean water, and green jobs environmental bond act that can restore New York's water, air, wildlife, and natural areas while helping communities prepare for climate change. The additional \$1 billion for the bond act will help New York leverage new federal infrastructure dollars to benefit the Hudson River and its tributaries. In this way we can activate projects such as dam removals that will help restore habitat for migratory fish and reduce the conditions that cause harmful algal blooms."

Sarah Charlop-Powers, Executive Director of The Natural Areas Conservancy said, "The Natural Areas Conservancy proudly supports the Environmental Bond Act. This Bond Act addresses the need for long-term and dedicated funding for New York to prepare for the worsening impacts of climate change and invest in restoring wildlife habitats. We appreciate Governor Hochul's support of this bill. This legislation will allow us to better protect natural areas across New York State."

Amy Chester, Managing Director of Rebuild by Design said, "We applaud Governor Hochul for recognizing how vulnerable NY communities are to climate change. Hurricanes Ida, Sandy, Lee, Lake Ontario overtopping and increased heatwaves have shown us a glimpse of what is to come. The Bond Act will bring necessary infrastructure dollars to communities across the State to build a better future."

"This budget delivers New York's largest Environmental Bond Act in state history with the inclusion of \$4 billion to pay for environmentally-focused projects and support the state's climate goals outlined in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act," said **Rich Schrader, New York Policy Director at the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)**. "The Bond Act will create stronger, healthier

communities by investing in water quality improvement, climate change mitigation, carbon neutral buildings, and flood risk reduction."

"The increase of the 2022 Environmental Bond Act to \$4 billion is fantastic news that sets a new, higher standard for investment in clean drinking water, land conservation, and addressing the growing demand for parks and greenspace for people and wildlife. This expansion represents a clear understanding of what's at stake for all of us in New York State as, together, we confront the realities of climate change and the need to protect vital natural resources," said **Kim Elliman, president and CEO of the Open Space Institute (OSI)**. "We applaud Governor Kathy Hochul for this strong commitment to confront these challenges head on and meet this moment with true leadership and real, meaningful action."

Robin Dropkin, Executive Director, Parks & Trails New York said "We applaud the Governor for proposing the historic \$4 billion Clean Water, Clean Air, Green Jobs Bond Act. New York's parks, greenways, and public lands are second to none, and this landmark proposal will go a long way toward increasing access to nature for more New Yorkers, tackling climate change, and investing in and expanding our green spaces and trails."

"The Environmental Bond Act will lead to healthier wildlife habitats and water resources," said **Sarah Fleming, Ducks Unlimited director of conservation programs for the North Atlantic**. "Conservation of our wild lands and waters increases opportunities for responsible recreation like hunting, fishing and trapping, improves water quality and has a direct impact on the economy of New York. Ducks Unlimited is proud to support this initiative."

Peter Linderoth, Director of Water Quality, Save the Sound said, "By putting forth bold plans to move New York into a safer, healthier, and more just future for all its residents, Governor Hochul has shown what can be done when a public official takes the existential crisis of climate change seriously. We look forward to working with the Governor and State Legislature to help ensure voters have the chance to realize this historic opportunity and vote for the Bond Act in November."

Jill Jedlicka, Executive Director, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper said, "Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper applauds Governor Hochul's commitment to preserving and increasing funding for critical environmental programs as part of the proposed 2022 Executive Budget, in particular the NYS Environmental Bond Act. With two Great Lakes anchoring the watersheds on our Western border, we must not forget that New York is a Great Lakes State. Funds from these programs are crucial to protect water quality and ensure the resiliency of natural and human ecosystems within our Great Lakes shorelines and ecosystems challenges."

"Now more than ever, we need aggressive funding at the state level to reduce climate risks faced by our local communities, and ensure systems are in place so these communities can adapt and thrive in the face of climate hazards. The inclusion of the Environmental Bond Act is a dedication to resilience that presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to kickstart a green recovery that will lock us into an equitable and sustainable future, as well as invest in large scale projects that build climate resilience and propel natural solutions while benefiting the economy," said **Cortney Koenig Worrall, president and CEO of Waterfront Alliance**.

Michael Barrett, ADK Executive Director said, "We applaud Governor Hochul's attention to our need for clean air, water, and green jobs by proposing the \$4 billion Bond Act. These investments will not only improve the wellbeing of Adirondack communities, but New Yorkers across the state."

Tim Guinee - NY Climate Reality Chapters Coalition, Legislative Director said, "The New Climate Reality Chapters Coalition applauds the inclusion of the \$4 Billion Bond Act in the Governors proposed

budget. The challenge presented by the climate crisis will not be improved by delaying our response. Shoring up working natural systems in the state increases the likelihood of substantive resilience in the face of this emergency. Thank you Governor Hochul for your forward-thinking support."

"If approved, the Bond Act would be a breakthrough for Long Island's future," said **Richard Amper, Executive Director of the Long Island Pine Barrens Society.**

Thank you Governor Hochul for including a \$4 billion Environmental Bond Act in the FY22-23 Executive Budget Proposal. With this important and historic proposal, we are not only sharing how highly New Yorkers regard our environment, but we continue to show our country that New York sets a precedent in leadership on pro-environment legislation, said **Suzie Ross, Chairperson and co-founder, Green Ossining.**

John Whitney, Chair of Western New York Environmental Alliance said, "The Western New York Environmental Alliance enthusiastically supports and endorses Governor Hochul's timely \$4 billion Environmental Bond Act proposal included in her FY22-23 Executive Budget Proposal."

"Reducing nitrogen and CO2 in our bays and harbors is doable with critically needed funding for research and practicable solutions. Gov. Hochul's strong advocacy for this year's environmental bond is laudable and necessary for a greener and resilient future for New York," said **George Hoffman, Exec Dir, Setauket Harbor Task Force.**

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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](#).