

March 11, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor
State of New York
Executive Chamber
New York State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Temporary President and Majority Leader
New York State Senate
Legislative Office Building, Room 907
Albany, NY 12247

The Honorable Carl Heastie, Speaker
New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 932
Albany, NY 12248

RE: Support an environmental bond act in the SFY 2020-21 New York State budget

Dear Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, and Speaker Carl Heastie,

We write to express our strong support for an environmental bond act. The undersigned 122 organizations represent a diverse cross-section of New Yorkers. Your proposed Bond Act to fund natural resource and habitat restoration, water quality improvements, farmland protection, urban heat island mitigation, flood buyouts, green infrastructure and climate preparedness marks a new chapter in New York's environmental leadership. We strongly support an environmental bond act because investments made today will yield benefits to communities and nature throughout New York, while protecting our quality of life for future generations.

All across the state, flooding and weather-related damages have reached a crisis point with billions of dollars in damages and countless human tragedies. Climate change demands that we take steps immediately to prepare our communities for a future that will bring more water, more heat, and a need to conserve natural resources that we depend on for clean water and natural buffers to extreme weather.

The Environmental Bond Act presents a once in a generation opportunity to directly address the current impacts of climate change and prepare for challenges to come. According to NYSERDA, New York is estimated to face damages related to climate change upwards of \$10 billion annually, although this figure is likely much higher given our current emissions of greenhouse

gasses. According to the Department of Environmental Conservation, heavy rain events have increased by 70 percent between 1958 and 2010. Investments in natural resources that can reduce flood risk will ensure that New York is proactively preparing for the impacts of climate change. And, projects supported by a new bond act will support local jobs from a wide range of professions.

The last environmental bond act, approved over 20 years ago by voters in 1996, continues to provide benefits to New Yorkers and visitors who support the state's robust tourism economy. We strongly believe an environmental bond act should be included in the budget and adopted by April 1st, for inclusion on the November ballot to ensure voters have a chance to weigh in on this vital proposal to restore and protect New York's communities, environment, wildlife, and tourism economy for years to come.

Sincerely,

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| Adirondack Council | Kevin Chlad |
| Adirondack Land Trust | Mike Carr |
| Adirondack Mountain Club | Cathy Pedler |
| Adirondack Wild: Friends of the Forest Preserve | David Gibson |
| ADK GATEWAY INC. | Mo Ahmad |
| Agricultural Stewardship Association | Teri Ptacek |
| Alliance for the Great Lakes | Nate Drag |
| American Farmland Trust | Samantha Levy |
| American Littoral Society | Don Riepe |
| Associated General Contractors of NYS | Mike Elmendorf |
| Audubon New York | Erin McGrath |
| Battenkill Conservancy | Lorraine Merghart Ballard |
| Big Reuse | Justin Green |
| Bronx River Alliance Greenway Team | Twahira Khan |

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| Bronx River Sound Shore Audubon Society | Doug Bloom |
| Brooklyn Bird Club | Dennis Hrehowsik |
| Brooklyn Greenway Initiative | Terri Carta |
| Buffalo Audubon Society | Lauren J Makeyenko |
| Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper | Kerrie Gallo |
| Capital Roots | Amy Klein |
| Carbon Cycle Institute | Torri J Estrada |
| Catskill Center | Jeff Senterman |
| Catskill Mountainkeeper | Katherine Nadeau |
| Central Westchester Audubon Society | Lisa Curtis |
| Chemung Valley Audubon Society | Brian L. Dugan |
| Church Women United in New York State | Mary Smith |
| Citizens Campaign for the Environment | Adrienne Esposito |
| Citizens Climate Lobby – New York | Bryan Swift |
| Citizens' Climate Lobby - Southern Finger Lakes Chapter | Nancy Jacobson |
| Clean and Healthy New York | Kathleen A Curtis |
| Coalition to Protect New York | Maura Stephens |
| Columbia Land Conservancy | Peter R. Paden |
| Construction Industry Council | John Cooney Jr |
| CPYN | Lee McCaslin |
| Ducks Unlimited | Nikki Ghorpade |
| EcoPlum | Gia Machlin |
| Environmental Advocates of New York | Peter Iwanowicz |

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| Essex Farm Institute | Racey Henderson |
| Finger Lakes Land Trust | Andrew Zepp |
| Four Harbors Audubon Society | Joyann Cirigliano |
| Friends of Hilltop Hanover Farm & Environmental Center | Gwenyth E Jones |
| Genesee Land Trust | Gay Mills |
| Genesee Valley Conservancy, Inc. | Benjamin Gajewski |
| Gowanus Canal Conservancy | Amy Motzny |
| Grassroots Environmental Education | Patricia Wood |
| Great South Bay Audubon Society | Jody Banaszak |
| Green Ossining | Suzie Ross |
| HRP Green | Susan DeGeorge |
| Hudson Highlands Land Trust | Michelle Smith |
| Hudson River Audubon Society | Frances Greenberg |
| Hudson River Boat & Yacht Club Association | Scott Croft |
| Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc. | Manna Jo Greene |
| Indian River Lakes Conservancy | Elliott D. Hillback Jr. |
| Kingston Land Trust | Ted Griese |
| Lake George Land Conservancy | Jamie Brown |
| Land Trust Alliance | Meme Hanley |
| Long Island Association | Matthew Cohen |
| Long Island Builders Institute | Mitch Pally |
| Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy | Mark King |

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| Natural Areas Conservancy | Sarah Charlop-Powers |
| Natural Resources Defense Council | Richard Schrader |
| Naurashaun Presbyterian Church | Rev. Dr. Gregory Simpson |
| New York Building Congress | Carlo A. Scissura, Esq. |
| New York City Audubon | Kathryn Heintz |
| New York Climate Reality Chapters Coalition | Tim Guinee |
| New York League of Conservation Voters | |
| New York Restoration Project (NYRP) | Lynn Kelly |
| New York State Association of Conservation Commissions | Simon Skolnik |
| New York-New Jersey Trail Conference | Joshua Howard |
| New Yorkers for Parks | Paul Gottsegen |
| Newtown Creek Alliance | Lisa Bloodgood |
| North American Climate, Conservation and Environment(NACCE) | Jerry Rivers |
| North Fork Audubon Society | Debra OKane |
| North Fork Environmental Council | Debra OKane |
| North Shore Audubon Society | Peggy Maslow |
| Northeast Organic Farming Association -- New York (NOFA-NY) | Bethany Wallis |
| Northern New York Audubon | Joan Collins |
| Open Space Institute | Kim Elliman |
| Orange County Audubon Society | Jody Susler |

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| Orange County Land Trust | Jim Delaune |
| Parks and Trails New York | Robin Dropkin |
| Peconic Baykeeper | Peter Topping |
| Peconic Land Trust | John v.H. Halsey |
| Protect the Adirondacks! | Peter Bauer |
| Putnam Highlands Audubon Sanctuary | Connie Mayer-Bakall |
| Rebuild by Design | Amy Chester |
| Regional Plan Association | Rob Frudenberg |
| Rensselaer Land Trust | John Winter |
| Rensselaer Plateau Alliance | Jim Bonesteel |
| Riverkeeper | Jeremy Cherson |
| Rockland County Solid Waste Authority | Kerri Scales |
| Rockland Farm Alliance | John McDowell |
| Roe Jan Watershed Community | Kaare Christian |
| Save The River Upper St. Lawrence | |
| Riverkeeper | John Peach |
| Save The Sound | William Lucey |
| Saw Kill Watershed Community | Karen Schneller-McDonald |
| Saw Mill River Audubon | Anne Swaim |
| Scenic Hudson | Andy Bicking |
| Seneca Lake Guardian | Joseph Campbell |
| Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter | Roger Downs |
| Sierra Club Niagara Group | Sara Schultz |
| South Asian Fund For Education, scholarship and Training (SAFEST) | Mazeda uddin |

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| South Shore Audubon Society | Brien Weiner |
| Sustainable Saratoga | Wendy Mahaney |
| Sustainable Tompkins, Inc. | Gay Nicholson |
| SWIM Coalition | Julie Welch |
| Taking Care Farm LLC | Susan Arterian Chang |
| The Boatbuilders | Matthew Stinchcomb |
| The Heights Urban Empowerment, Inc. | Antonio Camacho |
| The Nature Conservancy | Jessica Ottney Mahar |
| The North Shore Land Alliance, Inc. | Lisa W. Ott |
| The Trust for Public Land | Carter Strickland |
| Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust | Linda Garrett |
| Upper Green Side | Sarah Woodside Gallagher |
| Wallkill River Watershed Alliance | Richard Picone |
| Waterfront Alliance | Roland Lewis |
| WE ACT for Environmental Justice | Peggy Shepard |
| WESPAC | Nada Khader |
| Western New York Land Conservancy | Nancy Smith |
| Wildlife Conservation Society | Sara S. Marinello |
| Woodstock Land Conservancy | Maxanne Resnick |