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NYPIRG STATEMENT ON PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION TO ENSURE ALL NEW YORKERS HAVE TESTING FOR DANGEROUS UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

(Albany, N.Y.) Today, the New York State legislature passed S.1759-A (Skoufis)/A126-A (Gottfried), which establishes the first list of emerging contaminants in New York State that would be tested statewide in all water systems, regardless of the size of the community served.

New York lawmakers passed the Emerging Contaminant Monitoring Act in the SFY2017-18 budget, which requires the Department of Health to create a list of emerging contaminants for New York and test statewide. However, four years later, DOH has yet to implement any portion of the law. This legislation builds upon the initial law by creating the list of emerging contaminants, which includes numerous PFAS chemicals, and requires the Department of Health to review and to update the list every three years.

The following statement is attributable to Liz Moran, Environmental Policy Director for NYPIRG:

“Every New Yorker, regardless of where they live, should know what’s in their drinking water. Following the PFOA drinking water contamination crisis in Hoosick Falls, the Governor and the Legislature did the right thing by passing the Emerging Contaminant Monitoring Act, but the Department of Health never finished the job by creating the list of emerging contaminants. NYPIRG thanks Assemblyman Gottfried, Senator Skoufis, and the legislature, for passing this legislation. We urge Governor Cuomo to follow through on his commitment to protect drinking water quality for all New Yorkers and to sign this into law immediately – the longer there isn’t testing, the longer communities may be getting exposed to unsafe levels of contaminants.”

-30-