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NYPIRG STATEMENT ON DEVASTATING FLOODING

The biblical rains that are devastating parts of the state are fresh evidence that the costs of adapting New York's infrastructure to the world climate's "new abnormal" will be staggering. Legislation -- approved by the Senate (S.2129A) -- would require the largest oil companies to help pick up the tab and *do it in a manner that will stop them from passing the costs on to consumers.*

It's appropriate for the oil companies to cover climate costs since they have known for *decades* about the global warming problems caused by the burning of fossil fuels – the products that have made them fabulously profitable. Instead of alerting the public to the dangers, they spent big bucks on public relations consultants, lobbyists, and made campaign contributions to block needed climate-protection measures -- and they still do that to this day.

Rising sea levels and stronger storms are the hallmarks of global warming – both contributed to the devastation downstate. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has estimated that it will cost \$52 billion to protect New York Harbor *alone*. The question is: will only the taxpayers get stuck with the tab?

Governor Hochul and the state Assembly should embrace the Senate's legislation and make the oil companies – not taxpayers – pay for the problems that they have caused. They should follow the rule that we all learned in kindergarten -- you make a mess; you clean it up.

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