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MEDIA RELEASE

**Assembly Passes Climate Change Superfund Act 95 to 46 Votes
EOPA, NYSAC, NYCOM, Environmental Justice, Youth & Faith Organizations
Commend Assembly for Uniting with Senate in Bringing Climate & Environmental
Justice and Fiscal Fairness to NYS**

**NYS Joins Vermont as Second State in the Nation to Pass Historic *Make Polluters
Pay* Bill**

**National Leaders Bill McKibben, Hip Hop Caucus Director Reverend Yearwood,
and Raya Salter, Join in Applauding NYS Legislature for its Climate Justice
Leadership**

***Bill Raises \$3 Billion Annually for 25 Years from Big Oil Companies,
Including \$1 Billion for Disadvantaged Communities***

(Albany, NY) — National and statewide environmental justice organizations, including Bill McKibben of Third Act and Reverend Lennox Yearwood Jr., President & CEO of Hip Hop Caucus, joined over 400 youth, community, faith, and labor groups, EOPA, NYSAC, NYCOM and 100 local elected officials in celebrating the passage by the NYS Assembly of the Climate Change Superfund Act by a vote of 95 to 46 at 3:22 AM on June 8, 2024. The Assembly joined the Senate in championing fiscal fairness and environmental justice for BIPOC, frontline communities, and all New Yorkers. The Climate Superfund Act will save lives and lift up all communities harmed by the climate crisis.

“Finally some justice for the taxpayers of New York, and finally a past due invoice for the Exxon shareholders who have been profiting off the damage to roads, bridges and homes across the Empire State,” said **Bill McKibben, founder, Third Act and 350org.**

“The historic legislative approval of the Climate Change Superfund Act (S.2129B/A.3351B) is a huge step toward ensuring that Big Oil funds the escalating costs of climate catastrophe, ” said **Anne Rabe, NYPIRG Environmental Policy Director.** “The Act will reduce the heavy burden on taxpayers and local governments, and provide \$3 billion for climate damage repair, resilience and community protection projects, including \$1 billion for over 1700 disadvantaged community census tracts. We commend Senator Krueger and Assemblyman Dinowitz, and the

over 100 co-sponsors and supportive lawmakers for making sure that Big Oil adheres to the lesson that we all learned as kids, 'you make a mess, you clean it up.'"

"On behalf of cities, villages, towns, and counties across New York State, we thank Speaker Heastie, the Assembly, and the Senate for their leadership in protecting our communities and taxpayers. Enactment of the Climate Superfund is crucial to hold Big Oil accountable for the billions of dollars in damages they caused our communities," **said Dominic Frongillo, Executive Director of Elected Officials to Protect America (EOPA) Code Blue and former Deputy Supervisor of Caroline, NY.** "With the Governor's swift signature, the oil and gas companies that lied to the public with decades of deception must help pay to repair and prepare for climate damages they caused."

"By finally joining the Senate in passing the Climate Superfund Act, the Assembly, a house whose leadership has shot down climate legislation time and time again, has finally begun to take action and stand up to the fossil fuel industry as they continue to destroy our generation's future," **said Keanu Arpels-Josiah, 18, Organizer with Fridays For Future NYC.** "Big oil is creating chaos in our communities and for our future, and it's high time they played a role in cleaning that destruction up. This is a historic bill and must immediately be signed by Governor Hochul, yet it's only a drop in the bucket of the action we must take in New York on the climate crisis. The Assembly must continue to build on this decision by passing the NY HEAT Act, the Packaging Reduction Act, and further action to fight for climate justice and our generation over polluters."

"The State Legislature passing the Climate Change Superfund Act is monumental if only for these two reasons: 1) it provides a precedent for other states as NY now joins Vermont in holding Big Oil accountable for a share of the repair and mitigation of storm damage caused by climate change; and, 2) following two years of incrementalism by the NYS Assembly and the Governor in responding to the climate crisis, it moves the state along in fully funding and implementing its landmark Climate Act," **said Michael Richardson, co-facilitator, Third Act Upstate NY.**

"Bravo to the NYS Legislature for passing the Climate Change Superfund Act - this is what climate leadership looks like and we urge the Governor to sign this bill, make polluters pay and implement NY's Climate Act now," **said Raya Salter, Exec. Dir., Energy Justice Law and Policy Center, Member, NYS Climate Action Council.**

"The NYS Assembly and Senate's passage of the Climate Superfund Act is a major game changer in the fight for environmental justice for Black and Brown communities that are disproportionately affected by the harmful effects of climate change and toxic pollution. Infrastructure improvements will finally be made in often ignored communities with bold steps like this - the largest greenhouse gas emitters are being held liable for the damage that their pollution caused. I commend the NYS Legislature for taking this much needed visionary action that will mitigate the effects of climate change and look forward to Governor Hochul signing this innovative legislation into law", **said Renae Kimble, President of the Niagara Falls Branch of the NAACP.**

"As an elected official, I am thrilled to learn the Assembly has passed the revenue positive Climate Superfund Act. Based on the legal principle that 'polluters must pay', it will provide much needed funding for municipalities like mine which experience the devastating and costly effects of the climate catastrophe during extreme weather events on an increasingly frequent basis. We urge the Governor to stand with the people of New York and sign this bill - we are in a

climate emergency and there is no time to wait!" said **Mayor Nicola Armacost of Hastings-on-Hudson**.

"The Climate Change Superfund Act is the legislation New Yorkers need right now. We applaud the Assembly for coming to their senses in the final hours of the legislative session and passing this critical bill," said **Food & Water Watch Senior New York Organizer Eric Weltman**. "Now, Governor Hochul, fresh off a spineless congestion pricing reversal that scandalized New Yorkers, needs to get back to work and make this landmark legislation the law of the land. It's time to make polluters pay, and it's time Governor Hochul acted as the climate leader she promised the Pope she would be. Hochul desperately needs to look good — signing this legislation is the perfect opportunity to do something right for a change."

"Passage of the 'Climate Superfund' means Western NY will have more resources to prepare for longer summer scorches and increasingly dangerous winter storms and lake-effect snow loads. Using some of the past windfall profits from big climate polluters to better insulate our homes, strengthen our electrical grid and fund reliable renewable heating and cooling technologies is the kind of justice New Yorkers deserve," said **Janet Lenichek, Chair of the Sierra Club Niagara Group**. "The Sierra Club is grateful to the State Legislature for making this fund a reality, especially at a time when the state is so desperate for investments in climate solutions. We call upon Governor Hochul to sign the bill into law, with the understanding that this isn't a tax that will be passed back to consumers. This is in fact New York taking back money that was stolen from our future."

Catherine C. Darcy, RSM of the Sisters of Mercy Justice Team said, "We believe in the need for sustainability of life, supporting both a lifestyle and legislation that acknowledges the urgency to address the current climate crisis. The Climate Superfund is one such acknowledgment. We congratulate the Superfund campaign on this accomplishment and especially appreciate the assistance that this legislation provides to our disadvantaged communities. Governor, we remind you of words you spoke at The Vatican last month: 'Look no further than the words of Pope Francis.' Governor Hochul, we need you to sign the Climate Change Superfund Act without delay."

"The passage of the Climate Change Superfund Act by the NY state legislature marks a historic moment, making clear it's time for Big Oil to pick up at least part of the tab for the huge damage they've knowingly inflicted on our state," said **Peter Bardaglio of the Tompkins County Climate Protection Initiative**. "Together with Vermont, we have said enough is enough. Now Governor Hochul must step up to the plate and sign this bill into law."

"Passage of the Climate Superfund Act by state lawmakers was a critical first step in making corporate polluters pay for the tens of billions of dollars of damages they annually inflict on New Yorkers. We need Governor Hochul to sign this bill as quickly as possible. And state lawmakers must do far more to implement the goals of the state's climate law, starting with passage of the NY Heat Act and enactment of a robust carbon pricing program," said **Mark Dunlea, convener of PAUSE (People of Albany United for Safe Energy)**, the Capital District [350.org](https://www.350.org) affiliate.

"This is a huge win for labor to ensure that renewable energy projects and the transition to a green economy is a just and fair one for impacted workers. With the 'gold standard' for labor included, New York can lead the way to ensure that workers building, maintaining and manufacturing the green economy receive good wages, benefits and training," notes **Mo-Yain Tham, NY Policy Manager at Jobs to Move America**. "JMA commends the bill sponsors and the strong coalition effort and support that made this win possible."

“We’re very pleased to hear that the Senate and Assembly passed the Climate Superfund Act. Adapting to sea level rise on our coasts, caused by fossil fuel pollution, is going to require money and this Act provides the funding. The bill makes polluters pay for the damage they caused to our coasts and communities. It is now the Governor’s turn to protect taxpayers and sign the bill” said **Lisa Salomon, New York City Chapter Manager of Surfrider Foundation.**

“The legislature’s passage of the Climate Superfund Bill stands, primarily, for one simple thing: fairness. Communities now bear the full financial and human toll of the ‘climate catastrophe’ these companies predicted decades ago. Nothing could be more reasonable than asking them to help pay for the disaster they caused,” said **Lee Wasserman, Director of the Rockefeller Family Fund.**

Conor Bambrick, Director of Policy for Environmental Advocates NY said, “The legislature’s passage of the Climate Superfund is a bold move toward justice. By making major polluters pay for the damage they’ve caused, this Act ensures essential infrastructure improvements and prioritizes equity for our most vulnerable communities. It’s a big step for both accountability and environmental protection in New York. It is now up to the Governor to reassert New York as a true leader on climate action by signing this bill into law.”

“Finally, the NY State Legislature joined the ever-growing chorus of New Yorkers to say enough is enough and placed the burden of the rising cost of the climate crisis on Big Oil and the other corporate polluters responsible,” said **Theodore A. Moore, ALIGN Executive Director.** “Thank you to all of our legislative champions, and now, on to the Governor’s desk!”

“The League of Women Voters was thrilled to see the Climate Superfund Act passed in the final hours of session. Its time polluters are held accountable for their actions and forced to pay for the impact they’ve had on climate change. We applaud the leadership of Senator Krueger and Assemblymember Dinowitz and the hundreds of advocacy organizations that worked tirelessly to get this passed,” said **Erica Smitka, Legislative Director, League of Women Voters of NYS.**

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