



# New York Water Environment Association, Inc.

*The Water Quality Management Professionals*

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## **New York Water Environment Association Honors New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins with the Nelson A. Rockefeller Award**

**Syracuse, NY** – The New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA), recognized New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins with the 2020 Nelson A. Rockefeller Award at the virtual awards ceremony during the association’s 93rd Annual Meeting. The award is given annually to an elected official at the city, state, or national level, who has made a substantial and meaningful contribution to advancing effective environmental programs in New York State.

Senator Stewart-Cousins stepped up to lead the Senate majority in passing several groundbreaking initiatives, including the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) and the Restore Mother Nature Environmental Bond Act (Bond Act). The CLCPA is landmark legislation committing the State to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase renewable electricity production, and improve energy efficiency. The Senator ensured that the CLCPA includes measures to protect environmental justice communities that have been disproportionately impacted by climate change. The Bond Act was withheld due to the fiscal climate, but would have provided \$3 billion in funding for habitat restoration and flood risk reduction, climate resiliency and mitigation, open space land conservation, and water quality improvement.

Senator Stewart-Cousins continues to make environmental justice a priority, having ensured that the CLCPA requires that environmental justice communities receive a fair share of climate-related funding. The Senator carries legislation that requires stricter review of proposed projects that can have a negative impact on environmental justice communities.

Senator Stewart-Cousins also secured an additional \$1 billion in funding for the Clean Water Infrastructure Act (CWIA) and fought for a fully-funded Environmental Protection Fund in the State budget, which ensures that critical water quality improvement programs will continue. She has also led efforts to ban hydrofracking in the State, protect the public from harmful chemicals like 1,4-dioxane, PFAS, and trichloroethylene and reduce plastic pollution through the plastic bag and styrofoam bans. Senator Stewart-Cousins was also instrumental in securing passage of landmark legislation protecting nearly 40,000 miles of streams.

**About NYWEA:** Founded in 1929 by professionals in the field of water quality as a nonprofit educational organization, NYWEA has over 2,500 members statewide and hosts several technical conferences each year for environmental engineers, scientists, public officials and others who work in water and wastewater quality management. In addition, NYWEA sponsors a scholarship program, publishes Clear Waters, a quarterly educational trade magazine, administers wastewater operator training certification, and supports humanitarian clean water projects. Headquartered in Syracuse, NYWEA has seven regional chapters, 14 college student chapters and is a Member Association of the international Water Environment Federation. For more information, please visit [www.nywea.org](http://www.nywea.org).

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