



29 May 2019

Honorable Todd Kaminsky
New York Senate
Legislative Office Building
Room 307
Albany, NY 12247

Honorable Steve Englebright
New York Assembly
Legislative Office Building
Room 623
Albany, NY 12248

Subject: Support and Amend S.2878B/A.5334A: Establishing a Green New Deal Task Force for New York

Dear Senator Kaminsky and Assemblyman Englebright:

The New York Section of the American Water Works Association (NYSAWWA), the New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA), and the New York Rural Water Association (NYRWA) would like to express our support for S.2878B (Sanders Jr.)/A.5334A (Ortiz): Establishing a Green New Deal task force, but would like to suggest an amendment to the recommended consultants to the task force.

NYSAWWA, NYWEA, and NYRWA represent the drinking water, wastewater, and rural water interests of the New York water sector. Together, these organizations and their over 7,000 members work to maintain the quality of New York's water and ensure that all New York State residents, no matter if they are in the City of Buffalo, New York City or Lowville, have access to safe, clean, and reliable water.

There are currently multiple bills in the legislature that have the goal to protect New York's most vital resources: our water and our environment. S.2878B/A.5334A is the most comprehensive of these. Although there are multiple stated goals for the task force that would be created from this bill, one overall message continues to ring: the idea of a plan

that will not only create long term environmental sustainability, but also support the environmental and human health and wellbeing of residents throughout the state and across the entire socioeconomic spectrum. This bill does a good job inviting leaders from a variety of sectors to create the voting members of this task force. Having people representing workers, agriculture, transportation, health, the environment, and more will ensure that the final Green New Deal will benefit *all* New Yorkers.

The reason we are writing today is over our concern about the organizations listed as consultants. Although the wording of this section allows for use of any organization as a resource, from private and public organizations to local, state, and federal governments and agencies, we are worried that organizations not listed will not be utilized. We know it is not feasible to include all possible entities that could be used as a reference, but we are concerned that the current list of organizations only represent a small subsection of those who should be included. Most notably absent are upstate and rural governments (only Long Island and New York City examples are mentioned) and local or regional municipalities, such as water utilities, as well as water technical professionals. We are concerned that the lack of specifically listing municipal representatives and individuals from upstate and rural communities on the consultation list will lead to their exclusion from the conversation. Therefore, we recommend adding "local and regional water providers", "wastewater utilities", "water professional associations", and "rural governments" to the list of consultants.

Water connects us all. It is one of our state's most valuable resources and it is used to support every industry, directly, like in agriculture, housing and transportation. We all understand the value of our environment and its importance in ensuring we are growing in a way that will create a sustainable and resilient future for New York. However, doing this will require all of us to make sure that vital resources, such as water, are consistently considered throughout these conversations.

Thank you for your time and attention regarding this important issue.

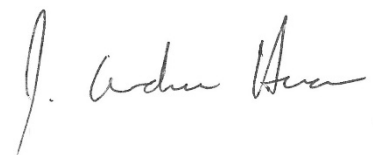
Sincerely,



Patricia Cerro-Reehil
Executive Director
NY Water Environment Assoc.



Jenny Ingrao
Executive Director
New York Section AWWA



Jamie Herman
Chief Executive Officer
NY Rural Water Assoc.