

Friends of New York's Environment
Protecting our land, air and water

November 8, 2006

Eliot Spitzer, Governor-Elect
Spitzer 2006
330 Madison Avenue, 19th Floor
New York, NY 10017

Joseph L. Bruno, President Pro Tem & Majority Leader
New York State Senate
Legislative Office Building, Room 909
Albany, NY 12247

Sheldon Silver, Speaker
New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 932
Albany, NY 12248

RE: Environmental Protection in 2007

Dear Governor-Elect Spitzer, Majority Leader Bruno and Speaker Silver:

Congratulations on your election victories. We greatly appreciate all you have each done, to advance environmental protection initiatives. New Yorkers have a longstanding tradition of working together to ensure that our children live in healthy communities and enjoy clean water, clean air, protected open space, working farms and neighborhood parks. Much has been done to protect New York's environment, but there is still much more to do.

During the past decade the environmental challenges facing New York have taken on an exponentially higher order of urgency and complexity. Meeting these challenges and protecting our health and the environment will require new creativity, innovation, the best available new technology, leadership, coordination and dedicated environmental funding.

Next year's budget and financial plan represents a huge opportunity to launch a whole new approach to protecting the environment, and our way of life. Critical to the success of initiatives to protect our land, air and water will be increased dedicated environmental funding and a renewed commitment to ensure that state agencies have the capacity to be the best environmental team in the country. In the attached we propose a new start for New York's Environment, a new environmental initiative.

We, the undersigned, are the Friends of New York's Environment, a broad coalition of more than 200 individual environmental, health, agricultural, recreational and urban, suburban, coastal and rural stakeholder groups and coalitions who hope to partner with the new administration and the Legislature to advance environmental protection. Thank you for considering this proposal.

Sincerely,

Friends of NY's Environment
See attached list of organizations and coalitions

CC: Paul Frances, Judith Enck, Steve Mitnick, Carol Ash, Pete Grannis,
Senators Johnson and Marcellino, Assemblypersons Farrell and _____.

Friends of New York's Environment

Protecting Our Land, Air and Water

1 in 9: The Long Island Breast Cancer Action Coalition
Adirondack Council, Brian Houseal, Executive Director
Adirondack Land Trust, Michael Carr, Executive Director
Adirondack Mountain Club, Neil F. Woodworth, Executive Director
American Farmland Trust, Jerry Cosgrove, North East Regional Director
American Littoral Society, Northeast Chapter, Don Riepe, Director
American Lung Association of New York State, Inc., Peter Iwanowicz, Vice President
Appalachian Mountain Club, Andrew J. Falander, Executive Director
Arbor Hill Environmental Justice Corp., Aaron Mair, Founder
Agricultural Stewardship Association, Teri Ptacek, Executive Director
Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks, David Gibson, Executive Director
Aquarium of Niagara, Gay Mulliner, Director
Audubon New York, David Miller, Executive Director
Bayport Civic Association, Bob Draffin, President
Bellport Beach Property Owners Association. Margaret Bermel, President
Binghamton Zoo at Ross Park, Mike Janis, Executive Director
Brentwood/Bay Shore Breast Cancer Coalition
Bridgehampton National Bank, Thomas J. Tobin
Brooklyn Botanical Garden, Lois Carswell, Chair Emeritus
Brooklyn Greenway Initiative, Milton Puryear, Executive Director
Buffalo Zoo, Donna Fernandes, Ph.D., President/CEO
Center for Energy and the Environment at New York Institute of Technology, Sarah Meyland
Citizens Action Committee West (CAC West), Hank Beck
Citizens Campaign for the Environment, Adrienne Esposito, Executive Director
Citizens' Environmental Coalition, Mark Dunlea, interim Executive Director
Clean New York, Kathy Curtis, Policy Director
Coalition of Living Museums, including over 100 individual organizations
Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor, Dana Hoffman
Coalition to Save the Woods, Mary Ann Johnston
Columbia Land Conservancy, Tony Colver-Pendas and Renee Bouplon, Interim Co-Executive Directors
Concerned Residents of Southeast, Rick Feuerman, President
Conservation Alliance of New York, Inc., David Miller, Chairman
Container Recycling Institute, Pat Franklin, Executive Director, Jennifer Gitlitz Research Director
Community Health and Environment Coalition
Concerned Citizens of Montauk
Concerned Residents of North Salem, Amy Rosmarin, Director
Croton Watershed Clean Water Coalition, Oreon Sandler, Executive Director
Delaware Highlands Conservancy, Sue Currier, Executive Director
Ducks Unlimited, John A. Cushman II, State Chairman
Dutchess Land Conservancy, Becky Thornton, President
East End Forever
East Hampton Trails Preservation Society
Eastern Long Island Audubon Society, Eileen Schwinn, President
Environmental Advocates of New York, Rob Moore, Executive Director
Environmental Defense, Jim Tripp, General Counsel
Federated Conservationists of Westchester County, Oreon Sandler, President
Federation of NY Solid Waste Associations
Finger Lakes - Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance, Scott Ingmire, Chair
Finger Lakes Land Trust, Andy Zepp, Executive Director
Four Harbors Audubon Society
Friends of Hempstead Plains, Betsy Gulotta
Friends of the Long Island Greenbelt, Sandi Ferguson
Friends of the Bay, Kyle Rabin
Friends of Hudson River Park, Albert K. Butzel, President
Friends of Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge
Greenburgh Nature Center, William Lawyer, Executive Director
Greene County Soil & Water Conservation District, Rene VanSchaack, Executive Director

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Genesee Land Trust, Gay Mills, Executive Director
Genesee Valley Conservancy, Eric Grace, Executive Director
Great South Bay Audubon Society, Linda Grant
Green Point of New York, Inc., John L. Iurka
Group for the South Fork, Robert S. DeLuca, President
Highlands Coalition, Jim Tripp and Carol Ash, co-Chairs
Hiking Long Island, Ken Kinder
Hudson Highlands Land Trust, Andrew T. Chmar, Executive Director
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Greg Swanzey, Executive Director
Invasive Plants Council of New York, Steve Clements, Director
Izaak Walton League of America, New York Division, Les Monostory, President
Lake George Land Conservancy, Nancy Williams, Director
Land Trust Alliance, Lynn Schumann, NE Regional Director
Long Island Drinking Water Coalition, Joe Lorintz
Long Island Environmental Voters Forum, Richard Johannesen, Board Chairman
Long Island Farm Bureau, Joseph Gergela, Executive Director
Long Island Greenbelt Trails Conference
Long Island Neighborhood Network, Lewis Neal
Long Island Pine Barrens Society, Richard Amper, Executive Director
Long Island Invasive Species Management Area (LIWMA), Kathy Schwager, Director
Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy, Jill Knapp, Executive Director
Mohonk Preserve, Glenn Hoagland, Executive Director
Nassau Land Trust, Kathleen Kleinman, Director
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Frances G. Beinecke, President
New York Association of Conservation Districts, Gregg Bell, Executive Director
New York Botanical Garden, Rosemary Ginty, Vice President for Government & Community Relations
New York Chapter, Solid Waste Association of North America
New York City Audubon, E. J. McAdams, Executive Director
New York City Soil & Water Conservation District, Eugenia M. Flatow, Chair
New York Conservation Council, Harold L. Palmer, President
New Yorkers for Parks, Christian DiPalermo, Executive Director
New York Farm Bureau, John Lincoln, President
New York Flora Association, Troy Weldy, Director
New York League of Conservation Voters, Marcia Bystry, Executive Director
New York – New Jersey Trail Conference, Edward Goodell, Executive Director
New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG), Laura Haight, Senior Environmental Associate
New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling, Jeff Cooper, President
New York State Association for Solid Waste Management
New York State Urban and Community Forestry Council, Patricia Tobin, President
North Fork Audubon Society, Maureen Cullinane, President
North Fork Environmental Council, Gwynn Schroeder, Executive Director
North Shore Audubon Society, Jennifer Wilson-Pines
North Shore Land Alliance, Lisa W. Ott, Executive Director
NY Trout Unlimited, Ron Urban, Council Chairman
Open Space Council, Marilyn England
Open Space Institute, Joe Martens, President
Open Space Preservation Trust
Operation SPLASH (Stop Pollution, Littering and Save Harbors), Rob Weltner
Orange County Land Trust, Fred Harding, Executive Director
Otsego County Conservation Association (OCCA), Erik Miller, Executive Director
Otsego Land Trust, Peter Hujik, Executive Director
Palisades Interstate Park Commission, Carol Ash, Executive Director
Parks and Trails New York, Robin Dropkin, Executive Director

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Peconic Baykeeper
Peconic Land Trust, John Halsey
people's Environmental Network of New York (pENNY), Vicki Baker, Chair
Port Washington Parks Conservancy, Myron Blumenfeld, Chairman
Queens Botanical Garden, Susan Lacerte, Executive Director
Regional Plan Association, Robert Pirani, Director Environmental Programs
Residents' Committee to Protect the Adirondacks, Peter Bauer, Executive Director
Residents for a More Beautiful Port Washington, Jennifer Rimmer
Riverkeeper, Inc. Alex Matthiessen, President & Hudson Riverkeeper
Saratoga P.L.A.N., Alane Ball Chinian, Executive Director
Save The Pine Bush, Lynn Jackson
Save Open Space Now 2000, Alex Wipf
Scenic Hudson, Ned Sullivan, President
Serpentine Art and Nature Commons, Inc., George Y. Bramwell, Esq., President
Shoreham Civic Organization, Mary Daum
Sierra Club – Atlantic Chapter, John Stouffer, Legislative Director
Southampton Baymen's Association, Ian Burliuk, President
Southampton Trails Preservation Society
South Shore Audubon Society, Michael Sperling, President
Staten Island Zoo, John Caltabiano, Director
Suffolk County Water Authority, Steve Jones
Sustainable Long Island, Sara Lansdale
Sweetbriar Nature Center, Marie J. Smith, Executive Director
Teatown Lake Reservation, Fred W. Koontx, Ph.D., Executive Director
The Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, Tom Alworth, Executive Director
The Nature Conservancy, Henry Tepper, State Director
The Trust for Public Land, Erik Kulleseid, New York State Program Director
Thousand Islands Land Trust, Aaron Vogel, Executive Director
Three Village Community Trust, Cynthia Barnes, President
Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust, Linda M. Garrett, Executive Director
Upper Delaware Preservation Coalition
Vision Long Island, Eric Alexander
Wading River Civic Association, Sid Bail
Wallkill Valley Land Trust, Christopher Duncan, Executive Director
Warwick Smart Growth Alliance, Andrew McLaughlin
Wave Hill, Kate French, Director
Westchester Land Trust, Paul Gallay, Executive Director
West Branch Conservation Association, Martus Granirer, Executive Director
West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc. (WE ACT)
West Islip Breast Cancer Coalition
W. Hayward Burns Environmental Education Center, Nate Davis, Executive Director
Wildlife Conservation Society, Sara Marinello, Manager, State & Federal Relations
Woodstock Land Conservancy, Michael DeWan, President & John Winter, Executive Director