

## STATEMENT FROM THE FRIENDS OF NEW YORK'S ENVIRONMENT

### FRIENDS OF NEW YORK'S ENVIRONMENT APPLAUD ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES FUNDED THROUGH REDC PROCESS

*Dozens of Grants and Millions of Dollars Dedicated to Projects with Environmental Benefits  
Millions from the Environmental Protection Fund Deployed to Communities Throughout the State*

The Friends of New York's Environment, a broad partnership of more than 100 environmental, public health, agricultural, recreational and urban stakeholder groups, today applauded the work of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, Lt. Governor Robert Duffy, ESD President, CEO & Commissioner Kenneth Adams, and members of the many regional economic development councils for awarding funding to dozens of environmental projects across New York State. The grants awarded will not only provide substantial economic benefit by creating jobs and injecting revenue into the state's economy, but will also address core environmental priorities of the coalition.

Organizations applauded Governor Cuomo for recognizing that protecting New York's water, air and public health is a sound investment in the state's economic future. It is clear not only that protecting New York's environment was a priority, but also an acknowledgement that environmental projects create jobs and are good for our economic recovery. The groups urged Governor Cuomo and the Regional Economic Development Councils to continue to view the protection of New York's environment as a critical component to economic development.

The Environmental Protection Fund, the state's dedicated source of money for capital programs that protect land, air and water, was deployed to communities throughout the state as part of the Regional Economic Development Council awards. Nearly 100 of the winning projects received more than \$23 million in funding from EPF programs and will address some of the core priorities of New York's Environmental Protection Fund. These include public health protection, water quality improvement, agricultural and parkland protection, and waterfront and urban revitalization. As with the entire EPF, these initiatives not only enhance and protect New York's land, air and water, but also create badly needed jobs and generate revenue for our economy.

A recent statewide poll found that more than two-thirds of New Yorkers believe that the state can and should promote a strong economy and clean environment at the same time. Results of the poll clearly suggest that awarding grants to environmentally sound projects is not only good for protecting public health and boosting the economy, but is also a popular choice with New Yorkers.

Through its various programs, the Environmental Protection Fund supports more than 350,000 jobs in New York State across a broad spectrum of industries, including outdoor tourism, agriculture and protecting the drinking water for millions of New Yorkers. EPF supported industries generate approximately \$40 billion for the state's economy every year.

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