



CCE BUDGET PRIORITIES FOR SFY 2020-2021

INVEST \$1 BILLION IN NEW FUNDING FOR CLEAN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE: Invest \$1 billion in *new* funding (the Governor has proposed \$500 million in new funding) for clean water infrastructure in SFY 2020-21 (combined with the remaining 2 years of funding under the Clean Water Infrastructure Act of 2017). This will help address the nearly \$80 billion in wastewater/drinking water infrastructure needs across the state, protect source water, fight harmful algal blooms, and help communities meet new drinking water standards for emerging contaminants.

SUPPORT THE \$3 BILLION RESTORE MOTHER NATURE BOND ACT: Support a \$3 billion environmental bond act that provides maximum environmental benefit and supplements—and doesn't supplant—existing programs. CCE urges the Governor and the legislature to identify specific allocations for the bond act, which include (at least) the following CCE priorities: protecting and restoring water quality, addressing the threat of emerging contaminants in drinking water, using nature-based solutions (e.g. restored wetlands, living shorelines) to improve resiliency and ecological value, upgrading clean water infrastructure, and addressing our solid waste management crisis.

SUPPORT A \$200,000 WATER SHARING STUDY: NYC currently has a drinking water surplus of 1 billion gallons per day, while Nassau County struggles to provide clean drinking water to residents due to contamination from emerging contaminants and the threat of salt water intrusion. *The Governor supported a feasibility study for sharing NYC water with Nassau County in his budget book; however, the allocation of \$200,000 to conduct the study needs to be included in the SFY 2020-21 budget.*

PROTECT NY'S FRESHWATER WETLANDS: Independent of size, wetlands play an integral role in protecting water quality, absorbing floodwaters, and supporting wildlife. Recent federal rollbacks by the Trump administration put NY's wetlands at risk. *CCE supports the Governor's budget proposal to make wetlands maps educational, not jurisdictional, which would result in the protection of approximately 1 million acres of wetlands across the state. CCE urges the legislature to also reduce the threshold of regulating NY's wetlands from 12.4 acres down to 1 acre.*

BAN STYROFOAM: Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) foam, commonly referred to as Styrofoam, is an antiquated product that unnecessarily threatens public health and the environment. Safer and more sustainable alternatives are readily available, and several counties, including NYC, have already taken action to ban EPS foam. *CCE supports the Governor's budget proposal to ban EPS food containers and packaging peanuts statewide.*

Citizens Campaign for the Environment is an 80,000 member, non-profit, non-partisan organization that works to empower communities and advocate solutions that protect public health and the natural environment.

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BAN FRACKING PERMANENTLY: In 2015, Governor Cuomo and the DEC wisely took action to institute a regulatory ban on the inherently dirty and dangerous process of fracking for gas. Since 2015, the case against fracking has only grown stronger. Studies have come out demonstrating that fracking has harmed public health, contaminated water supplies, and exacerbated the climate crisis. The current fracking ban, accomplished through the regulatory process, could be at risk from future administrations. *CCE supports the Governor's budget proposal to enact a permanent ban on fracking, and urges the Governor and the legislature to expand this ban to include fracking that uses gelled propane.*

ADOPT EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY (EPR) POLICIES: NYS is currently facing a solid waste crisis, with recycling costs estimated to cost local governments (outside of NYC) \$60 million in 2020. EPR, also known as Product Stewardship, is a strategy to place responsibility for end-of-life product management on the producers, instead of the taxpayers; while encouraging product design changes that minimize a negative impact—such as making products that are less toxic, less bulky, and easier to recycle. New York has implemented EPR programs for e-waste, rechargeable batteries, and mercury thermostats; and has adopted policies/working toward implementation of programs for pharmaceutical drugs and paint. CCE:

- ***Supports the Governor's budget proposal to adopt EPR for carpets and mattresses:*** Mattresses and carpets are difficult and expensive for municipalities to manage, and less than 5% are currently recycled. Establishing an EPR program for mattresses and carpet would reduce the financial burden on municipalities while benefiting public health and the environment.
- ***Supports EPR for packaging and printed paper:*** Packaging and printed paper constitute a significant portion of the solid waste stream in New York State—approximately 40%—much of which is not being recycled. EPR for packaging and printed paper is a large-scale solution to our current solid waste management problems that would create a much-needed, significant transformation to the entire solid waste system, while reducing plastic pollution and providing financial relief to taxpayers.

FUND STATE AGENCIES: Provide funding in the state budget to ensure that staffing levels at state agencies (DEC, DOH, OPRHP, A&M, and DOS) are adequate to carryout essential functions, including enforcement and effective program implementation.

INVEST AT LEAST \$300 IN THE NYS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FUND: Provide at least \$300 million for the EPF in SFY 2020-21. ***CCE opposes the Governor's proposal to pay for staff with EPF funds.*** Within the EPF, CCE supports funding increases to specific line items:

- \$22 million for the Ocean & Great Lakes program (Gov proposed \$19.75 million)
- \$1 million for the South Shore Estuary Reserve program (Gov proposed \$900,000)
- \$500,000 for Suffolk County to become a much-needed resource for testing of PFAS in groundwater (new, onetime allocation)
- \$175,000 for Atlantic States Marine Conservation Society to provide needed equipment for dramatic increase in marine mammal strandings along New York shores.

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