



MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Private Well Testing Act

S. 1854A – Hoylman

A. 1103A - Jaffee

An ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, the public health law and the real property law, in relation to enacting the "private well testing act"

JUSTIFICATION

It is estimated that there are approximately 1.1 million private wells in New York State, serving nearly four million residents. There is currently no statewide requirement to test these wells for drinking water contaminants, putting public health at risk. Emerging contaminants, such as PFOA, PFOS, and 1,4-dioxane, have been detected in drinking water supplies across the state through limited testing. These and other emerging contaminants are linked with a broad range of adverse public health impacts, including cancer.

While the New York State Drinking Water Quality Council is tasked with the development of educational materials regarding private well testing, more needs to be done to require testing of private wells. When it comes to the health of our drinking water, ignorance is not bliss, it is dangerous. Every New Yorker deserves the right to know if there are dangerous contaminants in their drinking water. After a similar law to require private well testing was passed in New Jersey in 2001, it was discovered that 1 in 4 private drinking water wells was contaminated above state drinking water standards.

This legislation would require the testing of private drinking water wells upon the transfer of property. If contaminants are detected, this would allow homeowners to take action to protect their health, including the installation of treatment technologies. This legislation is needed to protect the drinking water supplies for all New Yorkers.

CITIZENS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT SUPPORTS

S.1854A/A.1103A – PRIVATE WELL TESTING ACT