



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Antoine M. Thompson

Governor Signs Thompson Bill Limiting Phosphorus. "Protecting The Environment."

ANTOINE M THOMPSON July 28, 2010

| ISSUE: **ENVIRONMENT**

| COMMITTEE: **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**

For Immediate Release

July 26, 2010

Contact: Ken Houston 716.854.8705 houston@senate.state.ny.us

Buffalo, NY – New York State Senator Antoine Thompson (D-parts of Erie & Niagara Counties) changes the Environmental Conservation Law regarding the amount of phosphorus used in household products.

Senate bill S3780, sponsored by Thompson prohibits the sale or distribution of dish washing detergent containing more than 0.5% of phosphorus. The bill, signed into law by Governor David Paterson on July 15th, also prohibits the application of phosphorus fertilizer on lawn or non-agricultural turf.

Studies show that one pound of phosphorus can produce 500 to 700 pounds of algae, which reduces oxygen in water, causing fish and shellfish to die.

Thompson calls excessive phosphorus a growing threat to our environment. “By reducing levels of phosphorus entering the environment, communities could save significant cost, because they would not be required to install as much storm water treatment systems in impaired watersheds.”

The amendment to the Environmental Conservation Law goes into effect January 2013. Violators of the new law would receive a written warning and educational materials for the first violation. However, repeat offenders could be fined up to \$250.00.