

2021-J1119

Senate Resolution No. 1119

BY: Senator HARCKHAM

CONGRATULATING Paul Gallay upon the occasion of his retirement after 11 years of dedicated service as President of Riverkeeper, New York's Clean Water Advocate

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize those individuals and organizations within the great State of New York that are dedicated to the vital work of environmental protection; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Paul Gallay upon the occasion of his retirement after 11 years of dedicated service as President of Riverkeeper, New York's Clean Water Advocate; and

WHEREAS, Paul Gallay earned his bachelor's degree from Williams College and his law degree from Columbia Law School; upon graduating, he worked in private practice for many years before becoming involved with the environmental movement in 1987, when he went to work for the New York State Attorney General; and

WHEREAS, From 1990-2000, Paul Gallay was employed with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, where he brought hundreds of corporate and government polluters to justice; he then spent

the next 10 years in the land conservation movement before becoming Riverkeeper's President in 2010; and

WHEREAS, In this capacity, Paul Gallay continually strived to fulfill Riverkeeper's mission of protecting and restoring the Hudson River from source to sea and safeguard drinking water supplies for over 10 million New Yorkers, through advocacy rooted in community partnerships, science and law; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous leadership of Paul Gallay, the Riverkeeper team of more than 90 environmental leaders expanded its groundbreaking water quality testing project to include hundreds of new sites, developed New York's largest shoreline cleanup and restoration program, established the Hudson's first-ever dam removal initiative, and helped pass transformative federal legislation to protect our coastal communities and ecosystems from climate change; and

WHEREAS, Paul Gallay negotiated the landmark 2017 agreement to close the Indian Point nuclear plant, lobbied for billions in clean water infrastructure funding and fought tirelessly for New York State's landmark 2014 ban on hydrofracking; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his tenure, Paul Gallay worked tirelessly to make meaningful and historic changes on behalf of the Hudson River, its tributaries, and the drinking supply; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his valuable work promoting the sustainability of human and natural communities, Paul Gallay was a visiting professor at Williams College and an adjunct professor at

Clarkson University before joining the Earth Institute at Columbia University, where he has taught US Water & Energy Policy since Spring of

2017; and

WHEREAS, For the past 11 years, Paul Gallay rendered faithful, conscientious and valuable service to Riverkeeper, New York's Clean Water Advocate; and

WHEREAS, In his capacity as President, Paul Gallay served with loyalty, honor and distinction, and in his official acts, he was governed by a keen sense of duty and always showed a unique grasp of human problems; and

WHEREAS, During his tenure with Riverkeeper, Paul Gallay earned the admiration, esteem and affection of his colleagues; and

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon all citizens to recognize and applaud the efforts of individuals such as Paul Gallay who work tirelessly on behalf of protecting our natural surroundings for the benefit of present and future generations of New Yorkers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Paul Gallay upon the occasion of his retirement after 11 years of dedicated service as President of Riverkeeper, and to wish him well in all his future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Paul Gallay.