



**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON Environmental Conservation**  
**Senator Pete Harckham, Chair**  
**Senator Rachel May, Hearing Co-Sponsor**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Van Buren Hearing Room A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor 181 State Street, Albany, NY, 12247  
10:00 AM on May 21, 2025

**PURPOSE:** To evaluate the efficacy of the state's monitoring and management of harmful algal blooms (HABs) and examine potential legislative solutions

Hearing Contact: Marie Kelly | (518) 389-5671 | [kelly@nysenate.gov](mailto:kelly@nysenate.gov) | Eric van der Vort | (315) 478-8745 | [vandervo@nysenate.gov](mailto:vandervo@nysenate.gov)  
Media Contact: Thomas Staudter | (518) 455-1650 | [staudter@nysenate.gov](mailto:staudter@nysenate.gov) | Dan Messineo | (315) 478-8745 | [messineo@nysenate.gov](mailto:messineo@nysenate.gov)

**Witness Panels**

**Panel A: Agencies**

**Department of Environmental Conservation**

Alexander J. Smith, Ph.D., *Assistant Director, Division of Water*

**Department of Agriculture & Markets**

Richard Ball, *Commissioner*

**NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation**

Ron Rausch, *Deputy Commissioner for Environmental Stewardship*

Gabriella Cebada Mora, *Division Director, Environmental Stewardship and Planning*

**Panel B: Local Gov't**

**NY Association of Conservation Districts**

Blanche L. Hurlbutt, *Executive Director*

**City of Auburn**

Chuck Mason, City Clerk

**Finger Lakes- Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance**

Kristy LaManche, Program Coordinator

Panel C: *Lake Associations*

**Lake George Association**

Brendan Wiltse, Executive Director

**Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council**

Adam Effler, Executive Director

**Mohegan Lake Improvement District**

Ken Belfer, President

**Skaneateles Lake Watershed Agricultural Program**

Mark Burger, Executive Director

**Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance**

Jake Welch, President

Panel D: *Agriculture*

**NY Farm Bureau**

Renée St. Jacques, Acting Director of Public Policy

**Northeast Dairy Producers Association**

Allyson Jones-Brimmer, Vice President of Regulatory and Legislative Affairs

**Northeast Organic Farming Association of NY**

Katie Baidon, Policy Manager

Panel E: *Academic/ Research*

**Cornell CALS – Nutrient Management Spear Program**

Dr. Art Degaetano, Director of the Northeast Region Climate Center

**SUNY Stony Brook – NYS Center for Clean Water Technology**

Dr. Christopher J. Gobler, SUNY Distinguished Professor

Panel F: *Advocates*

**Citizens Campaign for the Environment**

Adrienne Esposito, Executive Director

**Save the Sound**

David Ansel, Vice President of the Center for Water Protection

**Riverkeeper**

Jeremy Cherson, Associate Director of Government Affairs

**NY Section, American Water Works Association**

Judith A. Hansen, Legislative Consultant