

## **Food & Water Watch Memo: Support Divesting from Fossil Fuels (A. 1536, S. 2126)**

Rising global temperatures risk irreversible ecological and climatic changes, with widespread impacts on human health and the environment. New York is already seeing these effects. Climate change has strengthened storms like Superstorm Sandy that devastated New York City and Long Island. Climate change will also severely impact public health, exacerbating pollution, frequency of extreme heat days, and transmission of vector-borne diseases.

Given the failures of the Trump administration, it is incumbent upon New York State to show strong climate leadership and move off fossil fuels. By halting further investments into the very dirty energy system that has perpetuated climate change and its catastrophic impacts, this shift can happen now.

New York State must pass the Fossil Fuel Divestment Act, A.1536, S. 2126

The continued use of and investments into fossil fuels props up the very system that has contributed to rising temperatures and increasing sea levels. It no longer makes sense to continue funneling money into this system.

Passing the Fossil Fuel Divestment Act would:

- Remove approximately \$4.5 billion worth of fossil fuel investments from New York's pension funds.
- Send a strong signal as the third largest public pension fund in the country, divesting would cement New York's leadership and commitment to fighting climate change.
- Place New York among a global community and movement.

For more information: Eric Weltman, [eweltman@fwwatch.org](mailto:eweltman@fwwatch.org), 347-778-2743