2022 Joint Legislative Budget Hearing
Environmental Conservation

Richard Schrader, New York Policy and Legislative Director
Natural Resources Defense Council
Richard.schrader@gmail.com

Fossil Fuel Subsidy Elimination Act – S.7438 (Krueger) / A.8483 (Cahill)
• Ends over $330 million of the most egregious subsidies that NYS provides to the fossil fuel industry.
• NYS currently provides the fossil fuel industry over $1.6 billion every year in tax exemptions. Doing so incentivizes the very industry that fuels the climate crisis and contradicts the goals of the CLCPA.

Climate-Related Insurance Risks – Bill number TBD
• Directs the Department of Financial Services to regulate the climate risks that domestic insurers’ investments and underwriting decisions pose to the well-being of the state’s insurance market and its communities.
• Bottom line: aligning the insurance industry’s investment and underwriting policies with the climate targets of the CLCPA.

Gas Transition – Bill number TBD
• Authorizes and directs the Public Service Commission to align gas utility regulation and gas system planning with the CLCPA’s climate justice and emission reduction targets.
• Removes the legal basis and subsidies driving the expansion of gas systems and requires the PSC to adopt rules and develop a statewide gas system decarbonization plan.

Green Transit and Electric Buses – S.3535 (Kennedy) / A.3090 (Dinowitz)
• Requires public transportation systems across NYS to purchase only zero-emission electric buses starting in 2029.
• The complementary Green Jobs bill will help encourage good, high-quality transportation manufacturing jobs in NYS and will support a just transition.

Direct Electric Vehicle Sales – S.1763 (Kaminsky) / A.4614 (Fahy)
• Increases the number of manufacturers and locations that can sell electric vehicles in NYS.
• Allows manufacturers like Rivian, Lucid Motors, and Tesla can directly sell their clean cars to drivers across the state.

Advanced Building Codes, Appliance and Equipment Efficiency Standards Act – S.7176 (Parker) / A.1443 (Fahy)
• Appliances: Updates energy efficiency standards for dozens of residential and commercial products (e.g. televisions, lamps, water coolers, air purifiers).
• Buildings: Updates efficiency standards for building codes, ensuring that building codes are consistent with the requirements set by the CLCPA.
• Would save households and businesses in New York State around $1.3 billion every year.

Green Affordable Housing Fund
• Finances building electrification and energy efficiency investments in new and existing affordable housing across the state.
• NYS should also establish a target of making at least 2 million homes efficient and all-electric by 2030, with half of those homes being affordable housing units.

**Flood Insurance Disclosure** – S.5472 (Hoylman) / A.7876 (Carroll)
• Requires the disclosure of information concerning flood insurance on property condition disclosure statements, ensuring that NY home buyers are fully informed about potential risks from flooding.

**Expanding SNAP Incentive Programs** – Bill number TBD
• Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps tens of millions of people access food.
• NYS’s SNAP **incentive** programs offer additional funds when shoppers use SNAP to buy healthy, local food at farmers markets and other approved locations.
• Increasing investment in these incentive programs would:
  1. Strengthen the purchasing power of low-income consumers
  2. Increase the number of families eating fresh produce
  3. Support local farmers

**Extended Producer Responsibility** – S.1185C (Kaminsky) / A.5801 (Englebright)
• New Yorkers discard more than 4.5 pounds of solid waste per person, per day, and that waste ends up in climate-destroying landfills and pollution-generating incinerators that constitute the main disposal routes.
• This program incentivizes producers of packaging, paper, and plastics to reduce waste and boost recycling, while covering the costs of municipal recycling programs.

**Birds and Bees Protection Act** – S.699B (Hoylman) / A.7429 (Englebright)
• Eliminates the low-to-no benefit neonic uses that account for the vast majority of neonics entering the state’s environment.
• Neonicotinoid pesticides (“neonics”) used in lawncare and farming are devastating to birds and bees and harmful to human health.

**Fashion Sustainability and Social Impact Act** – S.7428 (Biaggi) / A.8352 (Kelles)
• Creates transparency and accountability for the fashion industry’s climate and social impacts – requiring companies to map their supply chains and disclose their social and environmental impacts (re: fair wages, energy, greenhouse gas emissions, and water and chemical management).

**PFAS Ban in Apparel & Cleaning Products** – Bill number TBD (Reichlin-Melnick / Zebrowski)
• PFAS = per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances
• Bans the use of toxic “forever chemicals” in certain apparel and cleaning products.

**Environmental Protection Fund**
• Source of funding for capital projects that protect the environment and communities.
• Projects include:
  • Restoring historic sites
  • Conserving farmland
  • Restoring habitats
• Upgrading municipal sewage treatment plants

**Clean Water, Clean Air, Green Jobs Bond Act**

• Sets aside $4 billion for a multi-year investment in environmental infrastructure projects
  • Flood risk reduction, water quality improvement, open space land conservation, climate change mitigation, and environmental justice.
• Will be voted on in the November 2022 election.