



NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

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2017-2018 Officers

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March 19, 2018

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Honorable Paul D. Tonko
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Dear Congressman Tonko:

Re: FY 2018 Appropriations for EPA

NICHOLAS M. WARD-WILLIS

Secretary
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In August 2017 the Environmental & Energy Law Section of the New York State Bar Association prepared a memorandum expressing our concerns about budget proposals that, if enacted, would adversely affect the operations of the federal Environmental Protection Agency. A copy of that memorandum is appended.

MIRIAM E. VILLANI

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We write today to repeat and reemphasize our statements in the August 2017 memorandum in the context of proposals for EPA's FY 2018 budget.

As lawyers representing all sectors of the practice of environmental law in New York State, we are intensely aware of the essential role that EPA support--in the form of staff, policies, and funding--plays for the citizens, businesses, and environment of New York State. The draconian cuts being considered for the EPA budget will severely undercut important environmental programs in our state and elsewhere in the nation.

In addition, we wish to express our serious concerns about the environmentally damaging "riders" that have been attached to the EPA budget as passed by the House of Representatives. These are nothing less than an obvious effort to end run the courts and public opinion with respect to well-established federal environmental policy.

Finally, we would strongly oppose the elimination of funding for the Gateway project connecting New Jersey and New York. The adverse economic impact to the entire nation of failing to fund this necessary project would be profound.

Sincerely,

Kevin M. Bernstein
Chair

Opinions expressed are those of the Section/Committee preparing this memorandum and do not represent those of the New York State Bar Association unless and until they have been adopted by its House of Delegates or Executive Committee.

No federal or state employees participated in the preparation or approval of this letter.