ECLEG FEB18'14 AM10:50

A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATORS GRANT, MILLER-WILLIAMS & BURKE

RE: Resolution Supporting a New Environmental Bond Act

WHEREAS, for nearly two decades, New Yorkers have benefitted from the improved air quality, environmental restoration, and overall improved health of our communities due to projects made possible through funding from the 1996 Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act; and

WHEREAS, an influx in capital funding helps local governments act to protect watersheds, preserve natural resources, conserve areas that protect our drinking water supplies and provide important ecosystem services, protect open space, conserve farmland; and

WHEREAS, our state has become a pioneer in promoting the use of green infrastructure and pollution prevention projects in urban communities, restoring contaminated properties and returning those areas to more productive use, improving environmental health, creating community gardens and green spaces, parks and recreation facilities, and other initiatives that help New York stand out as a leader in environmental policy; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, counties have come to rely on the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) to provide funding in many of these key areas, which, along with the economic climate, has caused the EPF's dollars to become stretched thin; and

WHEREAS, in the absence of meaningful mandate relief, counties would benefit from an infusion of funding for environmental capital projects that they cannot afford to finance while also paying for state mandate programs and while operating under a property tax cap.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature supports the creation of a New Environmental Bond Act to help local governments make important and sorely needed updates to municipal wastewater infrastructure and drinking water supply systems; and be it further

RESOLVED, that state investment in environmentally sound capital projects will stimulate local economies, promote job creation, and help local government's complete potentially critical construction and other projects that benefit the public; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, the New York State Legislature, the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation all others deemed necessary and proper.

FISCAL IMPACT: None to Erie County