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NYPIRG STATEMENT ON STATE ENVIRONMENTAL BUDGET

FOOD WASTE RECYCLING WIN, ONGOING WORK NEEDED ON PLASTICS

(Albany, N.Y.) The Governor and the Legislature have come to an agreement on New York's Article VII Transportation, Economic Development, and Environment (TED) budget bill.

The following statement is attributable to Liz Moran, Environmental Policy Director for NYPIRG:

“This environmental budget bill is a mixed bag – literally – when it comes to the leadership expected of the Governor and the Legislature on critical environmental and public health issues:

- **Plastic bags:** New York decided to trade one environmental issue for another by opting to ban **plastic bags** without including a fee on paper bags. The State should have learned from other areas that also only banned plastic bags without a paper bag fee – they just don't work. California has documented success with a ban coupled with a fee, and New York missed the mark. Now, water resources and climate in New York will pay the price.
- **Expanding the Bottle Bill:** A recycling and plastic pollution crisis is still underway in New York and across the country, yet the Governor failed to follow through on his promise to expand **the Bottle Deposit Law**. As New York's most effective recycling and litter prevention program, it's common-sense to expand this Law to include non-carbonated beverages, wine, liquor, and cider. These issues will only get worse unless the Governor champion's this through before the end of the 2019 legislative session.
- **Food Waste:** When food goes to waste in our country, it ends up hurting hungry New Yorkers and our climate. The Governor and the Legislature deserve applause for agreeing to reduce **food waste** by requiring large food generators to first donate excess food, and then recycle any remaining as animal feed or compost. Thousands of New Yorkers and the climate will be in a better place thanks to this new policy.

The budget is just part one of legislative session. New Yorkers are counting on the Governor and the Legislature to take action on climate, reduce plastic pollution, and protect water quality.”

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