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**NEW YORK'S "NEW NORMAL" NOT NORMAL AT ALL:  
FREQUENT CLIMATE DISASTERS, STAGGERING COSTS**

**GOVERNOR HOCHUL LEAVES NEW YORKERS ON THE FINANCIAL HOOK FOR BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN CLIMATE DAMAGES AND EXTREME WEATHER EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WHILE LETTING BIG OIL OFF THE HOOK**

**HUNDREDS OF GROUPS HAVE URGED THE GOVERNOR TO SUPPORT "CLIMATE CHANGE SUPERFUND" LEGISLATION REQUIRING BIG OIL TO PAY TOWARDS THE CLIMATE DAMAGES THEY CREATED WHILE NOT PASSING THE COSTS ONTO THE PUBLIC**

(Albany, N.Y.) The turbo-charged storms that ravaged the Northeast brought widespread devastation to the Hudson Valley and the Ontario County region in New York. Governor Hochul described the situation as the "new normal." But increasingly intense storms, rising sea levels, and a hotter planet are anything but normal – and they are the direct consequences of burning oil, gas, and coal that have triggered a climate catastrophe.

The climate science is undeniable and the costs are real. According to an [estimate](#) by the think tank Rebuild By Design, the climate costs to New York could be \$55 billion by the end of this decade. Furthermore, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [estimated that it would cost \\$52 billion](#) to protect NY Harbor. It was recently [estimated](#) that Long Island faces \$75-\$100 billion in climate costs. And while storms get worse, sea levels are rising and groundwater poses a higher risk of flooding – [and we don't even know how much that will cost yet](#). The recent storms *alone* are [estimated](#) to cost New York \$50 million. Clearly, New York is facing staggering – and growing – climate costs.

The question facing the Governor and the Legislature is: Who should pay? It will undoubtedly be the case that the ongoing devastation from the worsening climate crisis will cost New York tens of billions of dollars over the coming decades. As it stands, under the direction of the Governor those costs are being borne - and will continue to be borne - by taxpayers.

Big Oil should pay. They chose profit over the planet. Their fossil fuel pollution caused the climate crisis. They are raking in record profits. After all, they knew *decades ago* that the burning of fossil fuels would rapidly heat the planet and with incredible precision predicted exactly the situation we're in today. Instead of alerting the world, they undermined science, bamboozled the public, and – to this day – fight tooth and nail to block environmental protections.

Earlier this year, hundreds of organizations urged Governor Hochul to include an innovative plan in her budget to require the largest oil companies to pay \$3 billion annually over the next 25 years to offset New York's climate costs. Instead, her Administration opposed the measure, even with support for the legislation in the state Senate's one-house budget plan. The Senate ultimately passed stand alone [legislation](#), but the Assembly stalled the measure (S.2129-A/A.3351-A).

As Governor Hochul puts together her next budget, we urge her to get it right and make the corporate climate polluters pay.

Link to letter sent to Governor Hochul can be found here:

[https://www.nypirg.org/pubs/202301/MPP\\_Climate\\_Change\\_Superfund\\_Act\\_Letter\\_to\\_Governor.pdf](https://www.nypirg.org/pubs/202301/MPP_Climate_Change_Superfund_Act_Letter_to_Governor.pdf).