



# NYPIRG NEWS RELEASE

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## **NYPIRG CELEBRATED ITS FIVE DECADES OF VICTORIES AND COLLEGE STUDENT EMPOWERMENT**

**AUTHOR AND ACTIVIST JANE FONDA, COMMUNITY SERVICE SOCIETY'S DAVID JONES, STATE SENATOR LIZ KRUEGER, U.S. SEN. SCHUMER'S STATE DIRECTOR MARTIN BRENNAN, AND NEW DEAL STRATEGIES' CAMILLE RIVERA RECEIVED NYPIRG'S "CHANGEMAKER" AWARDS**

New York, NY – The New York Public Interest Research Group Fund (NYPIRG) celebrated its 50th Anniversary today at the City Winery in Manhattan.

The event brought together college student and community activists, elected officials, and civic leaders from across New York State to celebrate NYPIRG's 50 years of work in the public interest and recognized the organization's "Changemaker" Award recipients.

NYPIRG's Changemaker Awards recognize individuals and organizations that create a lasting impact on critical governmental policies that protect the environment and public health, promote an equitable society, and foster civic leaders. This year, the Changemaker Awards were given to: Author and Activist Jane Fonda; New York State Senator Liz Krueger; Community Service Society of New York President and Chief Executive Officer David R. Jones; and NYPIRG alumni Camille Rivera (Partner at New Deal Strategies) and Martin Brennan (State Director for U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer).

NYPIRG also unveiled a new program to honor the legacy of Donald K. Ross, NYPIRG's first Executive Director, who passed away last year.

For the past 50 years, NYPIRG has been at the forefront of some of the most consequential environmental, consumer, good government, public health, and social justice victories in New York State – and a key training ground for thousands of college students and community activists. Through the years, NYPIRG's work has brought hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers together to stop nuclear power plants and garbage burning incinerators, register voters and protect voting rights, reduce exposure to lead and other toxic chemicals, safeguard drinking water, strengthen ethics and campaign finance laws, as well as win statewide bans on hydrofracking and on the use of natural gas in new building construction. NYPIRG's work is currently focused on advocating for policies that will help New York State achieve critical climate goals by halting the development of fossil fuel infrastructure and holding the oil and gas industry responsible for their role in the climate crisis.

Additional information about the event can be found at [www.nypirg.org/50th](http://www.nypirg.org/50th).

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