NYPIRG NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release:
Friday, November 20, 2026

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NYPIRG STATEMENT ON THE SENATE PASSAGE OF THE BIPARTISAN AMERICAN AFFORDABILITY AND JOBS ACT (S. 5653/H.R. 2347)

(*New York, N.Y.*) Yesterday, the U.S. Senate voted to pass the Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act (BAAJA) (S.5653/H.R.2347), a bill that revokes the environmental protections guaranteed in the Clean Water Act and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

BAAJA cuts the public out of the federal decision making process on projects that get developed in our backyards. For over 50 years, NEPA has given communities a seat at the table on decisions that impact their environment, from pipelines to power plants to data centers, and the Clean Water Act has allowed New York State to maintain water quality standards. This bill, championed by President Trump and fossil fuel industries, will lead to more polluting infrastructure in New York and leave New Yorkers defenseless against harmful projects like the Constitution Pipeline, Williams NESE pipeline, and proposed massive hyper-scale data centers

The following statement is attributable to Cecilia Ellis, NYPIRG's Policy and Communications Manager:

"If BAAJA goes on to pass in the House, the fossil fuel industry will have a lot more to be thankful for this holiday season: This bill sacrifices public participation and environmental protections in exchange for rapid, unregulated development. BAAJA empowers the federal government to steamroll safety standards and greenlight everything from pipelines to hyperscale data centers, all while ensuring local communities are defenseless against these harmful projects for generations to come. This bill is a bad deal for New York and voters are counting on House Representatives to stop this massive giveaway to corporate interests."

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