

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor  
State of New York  
State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224



The Honorable John Flanagan  
Temporary President and Majority Leader  
New York State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 330  
Albany, NY 12247

The Honorable Carl Heastie  
Speaker  
New York State Assembly  
Legislative Office Building, Room 932  
Albany, NY 12248

April 17, 2017

Dear Governor Cuomo, Leader Flanagan, and Speaker Heastie:

We write to encourage your immediate follow-through on a matter of great importance: ensuring that emerging contaminants are properly regulated in New York State to prevent any further crises like those we are witnessing on Long Island, and in Hoosick Falls, Petersburg, Newburgh, and elsewhere. Because of your collective leadership, the SFY2017-18 Budget creates a program for emerging contaminant monitoring and a new drinking water quality council. This is a groundbreaking approach that, particularly given the staggering enforcement cuts proposed for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), will quite literally save lives.

That is why it is crucial the drinking water quality council begin its work immediately; according to language within the Budget, the council must report its recommendations for emerging contaminant listing and testing within one [1] year of its first convening. Until the council advances their recommendations, the Department of Health (DOH) cannot proceed with promulgating regulations, which is a lengthy and arduous process itself. **The longer New York waits to start this work, the longer New Yorkers will remain concerned that the water coming out of their tap could make them sick. Restoring public trust with immediate action should be paramount.**

New York is home to a wide range of experts with unparalleled qualifications on clean water and chemical safety matters. We encourage you to start the clock on protecting drinking water by formalizing your respective nominations prior to the return of the Legislature from April recess, and for the first meeting of the council to convene by May 29, 2017.

Thank you again for delivering this victory, and we look forward to partnering with you to advance this process as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Liz Moran  
Water & Natural Resources Associate  
Environmental Advocates of New York