



## A.8810 (SWEENEY, ET AL.)

### Summary

This bill authorizes the creation of the Clean Water, Clean Air & Green Jobs Bond Act of 2009. The Bond Act would create state debt in the amount of five billion dollars for the preservation, enhancement, restoration and improvement of New York's environment. This bill provides for state assistance payments for such purpose and the submission to the people of a proposition or question to be voted on in the November 2009 general election.

### Explanation

Every corner of New York State is home to significant environmental needs, including but not limited to initiatives to protect our drinking water, investments in measures to reduce global warming pollution, and resources for municipalities to clean up contaminated properties.

In particular, many of New York State's sewer and waste water management and treatment facilities are in serious need of immediate improvement and upgrade. Much of the state's public water supply pipes are more than 100 years old, well beyond their intended lifespan. A major overhaul is needed to protect residents from unsafe drinking water and pollutants such as raw sewage.

A critical new program supported by bond proceeds could finance initiatives to reduce climate-altering greenhouse gas emissions and retrofit homes, commercial properties and public buildings. Bond proceeds could be used to refinance the State's Environmental Restoration Program. This successful program could provide municipalities with grants to clean up contaminated properties.

Passed by voters in 1996, the Clean Water, Clean Air Bond Act significantly improved New York's environmental quality. And although federal stimulus funds will support some of the initiatives highlighted above, these resources are limited in duration and the state's needs are great.

However, as written this bill is incomplete. The measure must be accompanied by implementing legislation that describes in additional detail how such monies will be used. Implementing legislation should determine specific purposes for funding, eligibility, the size of state assistance payments, and application procedures, among other criteria. We look forward to discussions related to such legislation.

**Environmental Advocates of New York supports this bill.**

**Memo 63**