Oil Slick Award Bestowed on Brooklyn Senator Simcha Felder

Felder Attempted to Prevent Communities Statewide from Tackling Plastic Bag Waste

Brooklyn – State Senator Simcha Felder (D-Brooklyn) was bestowed with the dubious Oil Slick Award by EPL/Environmental Advocates for championing a bill that would have blocked communities statewide from taking action to reduce needless plastic bag waste, which is costing local taxpayers as it damages wastewater systems, pollutes waterways, and gets landfilled.

Peter Iwanowicz, executive director of EPL/Environmental Advocates said, “Senator Felder consistently achieves very poor green scores in the Senate. The Senator earned this year’s Oil Slick Award for a number of reasons, most obviously for legislation that came in response to New York City’s plan to reduce plastic bag waste, but which overreached and would have prevented communities statewide from taking action, essentially transferring the Senate’s dysfunction on to local governments. The measure was rejected by colleagues from both sides of the aisle and stalled out as other legislators partnered in good faith to find solutions to their concerns.”

Senate
Felder, who has failed the Environmental Scorecard three out of the four years he has held office, earned just 57 points out of a possible 100 this year, ranking him near the bottom of all his colleagues. By comparison, several of his Senate colleagues from New York City tied for the high score of 92 points, including:

- Leroy Comrie (D-Queens)
- Martin Malave Dilan (D-Brooklyn)
- Ruth Hassell-Thompson (D-Bronx)
- Brad Hoylman (D-Manhattan)
- Liz Krueger (D-Manhattan)
- Velmanette Montgomery (D-Brooklyn)
- Bill Perkins (D-Manhattan)
- J. Gustavo Rivera (D-Bronx)
- Jose Serrano (D-Manhattan/Bronx)
- Daniel Squadron (D-Manhattan/Brooklyn)

Freshman Senator Roxanne Persaud (D-Brooklyn) earned 82 points on her first Scorecard. Meanwhile, Republican Senators Marty Golden (R-Brooklyn) and Andrew Lanza (R-Staten Island) both failed with 61 and 57 points, respectively, due to their support for bad legislation, such as an extreme bill that would effectively end New York’s participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), the state’s premier carbon abatement program.

Assembly
13 Assemblymembers from New York City tied for the high score in their house, due to their support for passage of the most aggressive climate action legislation in the country (which is now supported by a bipartisan majority of all state senators), including:

- Edward Braunstein (D-Bayside)
- William Colton (D-Brooklyn)
- Vivian Cooke (D-Jamaica)
- Jeffrey Dinowitz (D-Bronx)
- Deborah Glick (D-Manhattan)
- Richard Gottfried (D-Manhattan)
- Brian Kavanagh (D-Manhattan)
- Rebecca Seawright (D-Manhattan)
- Jo Anne Simon (D-Brooklyn)
- Walter Mosely (D-Brooklyn)
- Daniel O’Donnell (D-Manhattan)
- Linda Rosenthal (D-Manhattan)
- Helene Weinstein (D-Brooklyn)

Parts of Staten Island are represented by the only Assemblymember in the entire city to fail the Scorecard, Ronald Castorina, who despite being elected to serve a district that has been devastated by climate change, voted against climate action legislation.

The EPL/Environmental Advocates 2016 Environmental Scorecard is the first and only record of New York State lawmakers’ votes on legislation that will affect the environment. The guide has been produced and distributed statewide for more than 40 years. For the complete Scorecard, visit www.eplscorecard.org.

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