

For Immediate Release: October 12, 2017
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Majority of Southern Tier Legislators Earn Low Marks on Environment

Lifton & Lupardo Once Again Lone Standouts in Region

Southern Tier – EPL/Environmental Advocates released the 2017 *Environmental Scorecard* today, the only report card that tracks all 213 state legislators’ voting records on environmental legislation – and once again Southern Tier state legislators were among the worst performers in the state.

Assemblymembers Barbara Lifton (D-Ithaca) and Donna Lupardo (D-Binghamton) continued their impressive records, scoring 100 points as they championed legislation to fight climate change, and to ensure a Constitutional right to clean air and water for all New Yorkers.

“Consistently throughout their careers, Assemblymembers Lifton and Lupardo have proven themselves to be true champions for not only the people they represent, but all New Yorkers. In a delegation that largely fails to recognize the importance of clean air and water to public health, Lifton and Lupardo have been inspired leaders. All New Yorkers owe them a debt of gratitude,” said Executive Director Peter Iwanowicz.

Assemblyman Christopher Friend (R-Big Flats) once again had the worst and most extreme voting record in the entire Legislature -- by far -- earning just 17 points.

Assemblyman Philip A. Palmesano (R-Bath) failed the *Scorecard* for the 7th time in his 7-year career as a state legislator, earning just 62 points: he voted against groundbreaking climate legislation and an Environmental Bill of Rights that would give New Yorkers the right to clean air, clean water, and a healthful environment.

Senate Environmental Conservation Chair Tom O’Mara performed little better, earning just 68 points, amongst the lowest of his colleagues due to bad votes to strip local governments from taking action to reduce costly plastic bag waste, as well as a disastrous bill to kill clean energy jobs.

Additional scores include:

- Senator Fred Akshar (R-Binghamton): 68
- Senator James Seward (R-Oneonta): 68
- Senator Cathy Young (R-Olean): 71
- Assemblyman Clifford Crouch (R-Binghamton): 69
- Assemblyman Joseph Giglio (R-Olean): 79

The EPL/Environmental Advocates 2017 *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 45 years. For the complete *Scorecard*, visit www.eplscorecard.org.

