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Ortt Earns Lowest Environmental Record in Entire Senate
Kennedy a Standout in Region, and Statewide

Western New York – [EPL/Environmental Advocates](#) released the 2017 *Environmental Scorecard* today, the only report card that tracks all 213 state legislators’ voting records on environmental legislation. One regional legislator, Senator Robert Ortt (R-Lockport), outpaced his colleagues in a race to the bottom with a dismal 53 points – the lowest score in the Senate.

Senator Ortt astonishingly, given Western New York’s severe and highly visible water quality issues, cast the only vote against a bond act to help communities invest in clean drinking and wastewater infrastructure. He also voted to strip communities of their right to reduce plastic bag waste, and for a disastrous bill to kill clean energy jobs.

“Unfortunately, Niagara Falls has made international headlines as a result of its aging wastewater infrastructure -- yet, incredibly, Senator Ortt cast the only vote against a much-needed bond act to help communities like Niagara Falls, Lockport, and elsewhere access funding to fix our pipes,” said Executive Director Peter Iwanowicz.

Freshman Senator Chris Jacobs (R-Buffalo) and Senator Patrick Gallivan (R-Elma) each scored nominally better, both earning just 68 points. Additional Senate scores include:

- Rich Funke (R-Fairport): 71
- Michael Ranzenhofer (R-Williamsville): 77
- Joseph Robach (R-Rochester): 71
- Catharine Young (R-Olean): 71

By comparison, the region is also represented by Senator Tim Kennedy (D-Buffalo), who has consistently proven himself as a standout not only in Western New York, but statewide. Senator Kennedy earned 100 points in this year’s *Environmental Scorecard*. Assembly Members Harry Bronson (D-Rochester), Mickey Kearns (D-West Seneca), Crystal Peoples-Stokes (D-Buffalo), and Sean Ryan (D-Buffalo) also aced the *Scorecard* with 100 points each.

Just 12 of 150 Assembly Members failed statewide -- five of whom are from Western New York, including Minority Leader Brian Kolb (R-Geneva) who earned just 62 points. Additional Assemblymen who earned failing scores include:

- David DiPietro (R-East Aurora): 43
- Andrew Goodell (R-Jamestown): 62
- Peter Lawrence (R-Rochester): 60
- Robert Oaks (R-Lyons): 62

Assemblyman Angelo Morinello (R-Niagara Falls) earned just 72 points, and Assemblyman Michael Norris (R-Clarence) barely passed the *Scorecard* with 67 points, while Assemblyman David Gantt (D-Rochester) earned an incomplete due to too many missed votes.

Freshman Assembly Member Monica Wallace (D-Cheektowaga) and Assembly Majority Leader Joseph Morelle (D-Rochester) earned 95 and 92 points, respectively.

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.

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