For Immediate Release: October 6, 2023

Media Contact: Tyler Taba, Senior Manager for Climate Policy, Waterfront Alliance, (212) 935-9831 (x102), ttaba@waterfrontalliance.org

Waterfront Alliance and Rise to Resilience Coalition Accomplish Bi-State Mandatory Flood Disclosure Law

New York, NY - 4 years ago, Waterfront Alliance and the Rise to Resilience Coalition set out to introduce and strengthen flood risk disclosure laws for home buyers and renters in New York and New Jersey. That goal has now been realized, thanks to the hard work of our Coalition partners and elected officials.

Prior to our advocacy, both states earned an “F” ranking when rated by legal experts at NRDC and the Columbia University Sabin Center for Climate Change Law.

New York had a flood disclosure law, but this law was deeply flawed and allowed home sellers to pay a $500 credit to the home buyer to avoid disclosing flood history and flood risk. No law existed for renters. New Jersey did not have law for home buyers or renters.

On September 22, 2023, New York Governor, Kathy Hochul, signed S.5400/A.1967, requiring that home sellers disclose information regarding flood risk and history to prospective home buyers. This builds on the success of S.5472/A.7876A, which was signed by Governor Hochul in December 2022. Waterfront Alliance, NRDC, and more than 30 organizations in the Rise to Resilience Coalition spearheaded advocacy around both these laws.

“This legislation highlights our commitment to restoring natural habitats, which are our greatest natural barrier for extreme flooding, and safeguarding New Yorkers from the long-term dangers of flooding,” said Governor Hochul.

On July 3, 2023, New Jersey Governor, Phil Murphy, signed S.3110/A.4783 into law, requiring home sellers and landlords to disclose information regarding flood risk and history to prospective home buyers and renters. Waterfront Alliance, New Jersey Future, and more than 20 organizations in the Rise to Resilience Coalition spearheaded advocacy around this law.

“...I’m proud to sign into law legislation that will significantly improve transparency for New Jersey consumers while protecting the interests of our hardworking homeowners and renters,” said Governor Murphy. “For far too long, countless New Jerseyans have lacked the critical information they not only need, but deserve, to make smart, forward-looking decisions for their properties and families. In the aftermath of Tropical Storm Ida – and as flooding events continue to increase in frequency and severity – these requirements will help better prepare New Jersey homeowners and renters for extreme storms.”

“Flood disclosure is a critical consumer and environmental protection tool. Waterfront Alliance and the Rise to Resilience Coalition believe there is no single solution to addressing the climate risks we face.
Smart climate legislation, like flood disclosure, along with strong planning, adequate and dedicated funding, resilient infrastructure, and community organizing must all be prioritized in our goal to achieve climate resilience in the region – and beyond.

We call upon the neighboring states in the Northeast region to look at New Jersey and New York as a model for how to promote better awareness of climate risks for everyday residents,” said Cortney Koenig Worrall, President and CEO, Waterfront Alliance.

Both states now earn an “A” ranking, making them nationwide leaders in promoting climate awareness and transparency.

Thank you to all the Rise to Resilience Coalition members who championed this effort. Thank you to the bill’s primary sponsors, State Senator Hoylman-Sigal (NY), Assembly Member Robert Carroll (NY), State Senator Bob Smith (NJ) and Assembly Member McKeon (NJ), as well as the bill’s co-sponsors. Thank you to our partners at the NYC Mayor’s Office of Climate and Environmental Justice. And thank you to Governor Hochul and Governor Murphy for recognizing the importance of this law and swiftly signing it into law.

We are thrilled with this major policy victory and look forward to continuing to promote smart climate policies at the local, state, and federal level.

**Waterfront Alliance and Rise to Resilience**

For 16 years the [Waterfront Alliance](https://www.waterfrontalliance.org) has served as the New York-New Jersey region’s advocate for coastal resilience, waterfront access, and the working waterfront, and has enlisted more than 1,100 Alliance partners along the way. Together, we build, transform, revitalize, and protect accessible waterfronts for all communities.

The [Rise to Resilience Coalition](https://www.risetoresilience.org) (R2R), includes more than 100 organizations representing leaders in business, labor, environmental justice, volunteer organizations, scientists, environmental advocates, and design professionals collectively calling on our federal, state, and local governments to make building climate resilience an urgent priority.

###