WATERFRONT ALLIANCE ANNOUNCES NEW CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Kathy Robb Brings Legal Expertise and Years of Experience to the World of Climate Resilience

New York, NY - The Waterfront Alliance is pleased to welcome nationally-recognized environmental lawyer Kathy Robb as the new Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Waterfront Alliance is a U.S.-based nonprofit organization with a growing alliance of more than 1,100 partners and a shared goal: to bring about real change to shorelines, waterfronts, and coastlines across the nation and in the New York-New Jersey region. Guided by our diverse, effective Board of Trustees, we advocate for equitable waterways and waterfronts that must adapt to the reality of sea level rise and climate change.

Waterfront Alliance is honored and thrilled to celebrate the announcement of Kathy Robb as our new Chair of the Board of Trustees. Kathy Robb is an environmental lawyer with a proven track record of over 35 years of experience both in private practice and non-profit work and is well-positioned to guide the Waterfront Alliance to new heights in our journey to build, transform, revitalize, and protect accessible waterfronts for all communities.

Robb steps into this role following the exemplary 12-year tenure of Christopher O. Ward, whose leadership and dedication were invaluable in solidifying the Waterfront Alliance’s place as a force in the environmental and climate nongovernmental sectors. Under his leadership, with his vast expertise and extensive network across both public and private sectors, Waterfront Alliance realized direct policy and legislative victories at the local, state, and national levels.

"It has been a privilege to serve as the Chair of the Board, and I am immensely proud of the collective achievements we have made in advancing our mission and strategic objectives," said Chris Ward in a statement released today, expressing gratitude for the opportunity to lead the Board during a transformative period in Waterfront Alliance’s history. Ward extended a warm welcome to his colleague and successor, stating, "I have full confidence in Kathy’s ability to lead Waterfront Alliance with wisdom and foresight. Her wealth of experience and commitment to excellence will undoubtedly contribute to the continued success during a time of profound global and national change.”
Robb is the founder of Robb Water Partners LLC and a founding director of BlueCommons LLC, a non-profit revolving fund establishing a national community Blue Bank for sustainable water projects. She chairs the New Venture Fund BlueCommons Advisory Board and previously served as the CEO of Blue Access LLC, a sustainable finance company focused on water, and co-headed the environmental practice in one of the U.S.’s largest law firms. In addition to her legal expertise in water-driven litigation, transactions, and sustainability, Robb serves as the President of the Environmental Law Institute’s Leadership Council in Washington, DC.

Elected to the American College of Environmental Lawyers in 2016, she was also named a “Sustainable 100” by New York’s City and State in 2017. Robb currently chairs the Board of the National Water Law Forum and is actively involved in speaking and writing on water law and policy issues. Her recent client projects include a comprehensive white paper on Rio Grande Water Deliveries for the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission.

Previously, Robb carried the role of Board Vice-Chair of the Waterfront Alliance before her recent election to Chair. She has been a board member for 11 years, served on the Executive Committee, and chaired the Governance Committee.

“Stepping into the leadership role as Chair of the Board of Trustees at Waterfront Alliance fills me with great enthusiasm. It’s an honor to succeed Chris Ward, whose dedication over the past 12 years has immensely contributed to advancing our mission. I am eager to harness the Waterfront Alliance’s strength in New York and New Jersey and steer us toward groundbreaking solutions for resilient and accessible waterfronts here and across the United States. Our collective future is bright, and I am committed to working with the terrific Waterfront Alliance Board, team, and Alliance members to leverage my experience and deep interest in water to build on the Waterfront Alliance’s accomplishments,” said Kathy Robb.

“Kathy Robb has chosen to step up and lead our Board of Trustees at a pivotal time for the nation and its waters. Her commitment, expertise, and passion will not only improve but grow our efforts to protect and revitalize the most treasured, water enriched places of any landscape. From strategic planning to setting policies and securing resources, our Trustees are at the core of our strength, with chair leadership as a keystone for any nonprofit. Personally, I am humbled to work directly with such a brilliant and effective environmental leader,” said Cortney Koenig Worrall, President and CEO of the Waterfront Alliance.

As Robb assumes the role of Chair, Ward will continue as a Board member, and will be honored this coming fall as a Hero of the Harbor. This seamless transition reflects Waterfront Alliance’s commitment to stability and sustained growth, as well as honoring collaboration and the impact of our historic investments.

The entire Waterfront Alliance family expresses its gratitude to Ward for his outstanding leadership and welcomes Robb with open arms. Together, they are poised to propel Waterfront Alliance into a new era of innovation, impact, and achievement.
The Waterfront Alliance builds, transforms, revitalizes, and protects accessible waterfronts for all communities, together.