WATERFRONT ALLIANCE STATEMENT ON END OF NEW YORK LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The 2024 legislative session was a mixed bag for climate policy. At the end of the New York State legislative session, the State Senate and Assembly pulled together to pass important bills. Among them were policies supported by Waterfront Alliance and our many Alliance partners, including S.9849 / A.10543 (Alternative Delivery); S.7383 / A.8864A (Public Notice); and S.6409A / A.6909A (Green Roof Tax Abatement).

The Alternative Delivery and Public Notice legislation will reform the capital process in New York City to help deliver climate resilient infrastructure more quickly and efficiently. More specifically, these bills give New York City the ability to use alternative delivery methods (like CM-Build and Progressive Design Build) to build better, more quickly, and inclusively while creating good-paying construction jobs in the process. Additionally, the bills allow for greater transparency in contracting and online public commenting project procurement. We proudly stand in support with our labor and M/WBE Alliance partners to make these necessary reforms.

The Green Roof Tax Abatement would reauthorize an incentive for installing green roofs in New York City. The current program is set to expire in June 2024. We applaud the Senate and Assembly for their leadership and encourage Governor Hochul to swiftly sign the bill into law. Beyond extending the existing program, the new law creates additional incentives in heat vulnerable communities and reduces soil depth requirements to help increase adoption across the five boroughs.

While we are pleased to see these bills move, there are key climate bills that were left on the table. Among them include: the Rain Ready New York Act, the Climate Resilient New York Act, NY HEAT, and the Climate Education Act.

These critical bills would clarify the legal authority for local water and sewer authorities to manage stormwater and sewage; create an Office of Resilience and statewide climate resilience plan; ensure energy affordability and save New Yorkers money on their energy bills; and support teaching climate change to our youth to be part of the next generation of climate leaders, respectively.

As we enter a highly active Atlantic Hurricane season and growing extreme heat days this summer, we call on leadership in the Senate and Assembly to reflect on the importance of climate resilience and adaptation policies and planning in the upcoming legislative session.

Let us not wait for another climate disaster to remind us of the necessary tools and investments required to face the climate crisis. Waterfront Alliance remains committed to advocating for resilience and adaptation to be an urgent policy priority at the local, state, and federal level. **We look forward to working with the legislature in the next session to pass these laws.**