

**Look
inside**

to see how Assemblyman
Burke is fighting to preserve
our drinking water



Restore Lake Erie to its natural beauty Hold polluters accountable



Assemblyman Pat Burke:

Dear Neighbor,

Every New Yorker has the right to clean drinking water free of pollution and contaminants. With the growing threat of climate change, it's now more important than ever for all of us to act as stewards of our environment and ensure that our natural resources are protected today and for generations to come.

This year, I worked hard to ensure New York families have access to clean drinking water in Erie County and beyond, and I fought to protect Lake Erie from polluters. As chair of the Assembly Subcommittee on Oversight of the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), I helped make sure New York is at the forefront of creating a more sustainable future.

Fighting for the health and safety of our Western New York communities will always be my top priority. As always, I'm here to serve you. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Assemblyman Pat Burke



Protecting Lake Erie

Assemblyman Burke is fighting to create a Lake Erie Bill of Rights to protect one of Western New York's most important natural resources from pollution

(A.6313). Of all the Great Lakes basins, the Lake Erie watershed is the most populous. Unfortunately, runoff pollution is a major concern, causing large toxic algae blooms that are harmful to both people and wildlife, and negatively affect the local economy.



Assemblyman Burke's legislation **would grant Lake Erie the legal right to exist, flourish and naturally evolve, and would allow residents to sue polluters on its behalf.** The measure received overwhelming support in **Assemblyman Burke's constituent survey**, which he sent out earlier this fall. He is hopeful that this important legislation will receive the support it deserves during the upcoming 2020 legislative session.

Additionally, Assemblyman Burke supported a measure in the 2019-20 state budget to **phase out most single-use plastic bags by 2020.** Since plastic bags are one of the largest culprits of plastic water pollution, this law will help keep Lake Erie clean.

Preserving natural resources

This year, Assemblyman Burke was appointed chair of the Assembly Subcommittee on Oversight of the DEC, which helped him ensure that New York was investing proper funding into protecting residents' access to clean air and water, as well as the safety of wildlife. The position also **allows Assemblyman Burke to review the DEC's usage of state funds, assess New York's existing environmental programs and conduct hearings on the use of state funds to address environmental concerns.**



Assemblyman Burke also **co-sponsored and helped pass the New York State Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act to better combat climate change** (Ch. 106 of 2019). This critical new law implements renewable energy goals, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, invests in green energy projects and promotes environmental justice.

Fighting for our communities

Assemblyman Burke's efforts to protect Western New Yorkers' access to clean drinking water extends before his time in the Assembly. **As an Erie County legislator, Burke wrote and helped pass the first comprehensive microbeads plastic ban in the nation**, which bans microbeads in cosmetic products that can slip through sewage filters and end up in local waterways.

Access to clean drinking water is a right, not a privilege. As the new year approaches, Assemblyman Burke will continue to push for legislation that ensures this basic human right, keeps Erie County's waterways free of pollution and protects our planet.

Assemblyman Pat Burke

I'm here for you. Contact my office at:

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