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THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



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SENATOR, 60TH DISTRICT

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MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Majority Members
From: Senator Grisanti
Date: February 8, 2012
Re: Sign on Letter Request

Attached please find a letter that I would ask you to consider signing onto, advocating for language to be included in the Senate Budget Bill that would provide an increase in the amount of funds available for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) by phasing in over period of four years money received by the State from unclaimed nickel bottle deposits (S. 5403A).

Specifically, we would request that money that is currently disbursed to the General Fund be directed toward the EPF to support environmental programs and initiatives. We would ask that 25% of this revenue be directed toward the EPF in year one and subsequently increased 25% each year over four years. We believe that including this provision will result in an additional \$115 million to the EPF by the end of these four years.

The EPF supports a wide variety of programs that benefit our economy and protect the environment. The EPF supports thousands of jobs across a broad spectrum of industries including outdoor tourism and agriculture. EPF-supported industries generate approximately \$40 billion every year. Further, EPF funding is critical for protecting the drinking water of millions of New Yorkers. We believe that this bill will provide for a greener New York and a more vibrant economy.

Please contact Lisa Sams of my office at 455-3240 by 2 PM Friday February 17th.

NEW YORK

STATE
SENATE

ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247



Senator Dean G. Skelos
Senate Majority Leader
Room 330 CAP
Albany, NY 12247

February 8, 2012

Dear Senator Skelos:

We write to respectfully request that you include language in the Senate Budget Bill that would provide an increase in the amount of funds available for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) by phasing in over period of four years money received by the State from unclaimed nickel bottle deposits (S. 5403A).

Specifically, we would request that money that is currently disbursed to the General Fund be directed toward the EPF to support environmental programs and initiatives. We would ask that 25% of this revenue be directed toward the EPF in year one and subsequently increased 25% each year over four years. We believe that including this provision will result in an additional \$115 million to the EPF by the end of these four years.

For almost 20 years, the EPF has been New York's dedicated funding source for state programs committed to protecting land, water, and air. Annual EPF funding reached a high of \$255 million in 2008-09 and has subsequently been reduced to \$134 million. During this time nearly \$500 million has been swept from the EPF and put into the General Fund.

The EPF supports a wide variety of programs that benefit our economy and protect the environment. The EPF supports thousands of jobs across a broad spectrum of industries including outdoor tourism and agriculture. EPF-supported industries generate approximately \$40 billion every year. Further, EPF funding is critical for protecting the drinking water of millions of New Yorkers. We believe that this bill will provide for a greener New York and a more vibrant economy.

Sincerely,