

1 **2022 NYSAC Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Climate Action**
3 **Resolution #1**

4
5 **Resolution in Support of Legislation to Establish the Resilient New York**
6 **Revolving Loan Program and the Resilient New York Revolving Loan Fund**

7 **WHEREAS**, climate change is resulting in sea level rise, coastal erosion, and more
8 frequent and more intense storm events that put homes, businesses, and communities
9 at risk and cause millions of dollars in damages; and

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11 **WHEREAS**, mitigation projects are critical to reducing the risk to people and property
12 from future disasters and create good jobs in the professional trades and the design
13 professions; and

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15 **WHEREAS**, resilience and mitigation spending saves taxpayers more than \$6 for every
16 \$1 invested; and

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18 **WHEREAS**, the majority of disaster relief programs focus on post-disaster response
19 rather than pre-disaster mitigation, preparation, and resilience; and

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21 **WHEREAS**, the Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation (STORM)
22 Act, which was signed into law in January 2021, authorized the Federal Emergency
23 Management Agency (FEMA) to provide capitalization grants to states and tribal
24 governments to establish revolving loan funds that provide hazard mitigation assistance
25 for local governments; and

26
27 **WHEREAS**, the program is modeled after the Environmental Protection Agency
28 (EPA)'s highly successful Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and Drinking
29 Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), which partially fund water infrastructure
30 projects; and

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32 **WHEREAS**, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provided \$500 million for the
33 STORM Act, or \$100 million per year; and

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35 **WHEREAS**, unlike existing FEMA mitigation grants, the STORM Act's revolving loan
36 funds will allow states to directly offer low-interest loans to local governments for
37 mitigation projects to help reduce loss of life and property without going through the
38 federal grant application process; and

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40 **WHEREAS**, in order for states to access the loan funds, they will need to create their
41 own resilient revolving loan programs; and

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43 **WHEREAS**, S.8853 (Breslin)/A.10325 (Fahy) would create the New York Resilient
44 Revolving Loan Program to allow New York State to accept STORM Act funding and
45 finance local infrastructure projects that protect against natural disasters; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the Resilient New York Revolving Loan Program would provide low or no-
2 interest loans to municipalities and not-for-profit organizations for hazard mitigation
3 and resilience projects, including but not limited to building resilient infrastructure and
4 communities, flood mitigation assistance, flood risk reduction projects, and any
5 adaptation or mitigation projects included in Section 54-1523 of the Environmental
6 Conservation Law; and

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8 **WHEREAS**, the revolving loan funds will allow New York to prioritize funding for
9 mitigation projects that are most important to New Yorkers rather than having the
10 federal government make those decisions; and

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12 **WHEREAS**, loans may also be granted to individual property owners to provide the
13 financing for natural hazard mitigation projects, such as retrofitting property to protect
14 against floods, fires, and earthquakes; and

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16 **WHEREAS**, under this program, property owners would be eligible for graduated loan
17 forgiveness based on their income; and

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19 **WHEREAS**, these investments would better position communities to adapt to climate
20 change and recover more quickly from intense storms and natural disasters.

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22 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of
23 Counties (NYSAC) urges the Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign legislation
24 S.8853 (Breslin)/A.10325 (Fahy) to establish the Resilient New York Revolving Loan
25 Program and the Resilient New York Revolving Loan Fund; and

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27 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of
28 New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

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30 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to The
31 Governor of the State of New York, the New York State Legislature, and all others
32 deemed necessary and proper.