



Dear Friends,

Yesterday was Earth Day, so I would be remiss in not using this week's newsletter to discuss the Climate Crisis and highlight some of the actions we are taking at the state level to do our part in protecting the environment.

But before getting to that, I'd like to say a few words about Tuesday's verdict in the George Floyd case. The words "I can't breathe" will reverberate in our nation's memory for decades. These last 11 months since his death have been an agonizing time for the family, friends, and loved ones of George Floyd, as well as for people of color everywhere in this country. Although it certainly will never bring Mr. Floyd back, hopefully this guilty verdict provides some solace and a measure of closure.

When the verdict was announced, I felt relief. Relief that justice was served. That the defendant was found guilty of a murder we all witnessed, all 9 minutes and 29 seconds of it, because any other outcome would be incomprehensible and a travesty of justice. And yet, many (including myself) still feared a different outcome was possible... a reminder that even though we have made important strides over the last year, we still have a long way to go as a nation toward equality and justice.



[New York's Commitment to Protecting Our Environment](#)

To me, Earth Day represents an opportunity for all of us to pause, celebrate our planet, and recommit to doing everything we can to combat the climate crisis. And make no mistake, it is a crisis that requires urgent action if our planet is to survive.

For those of you who may not know my background, the environment has always been a top priority for me. During my tenure as Bedford Town Supervisor, partnering with Bedford 2020 (now [Bedford 2030](#)), Bedford reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 44%, achieving that goal a year earlier than planned. During that same time, the town's promotion of the importance of recycling led to Bedford having the highest recycling rate in the County. And as one of the first co-chairs of Sustainable Westchester, I helped launch [Community Choice Aggregation](#) (now celebrating its fifth successful year) to promote renewably sourced electricity for Westchester County.



Now as a member of the Assembly – and its Environmental Conservation Committee – I feel an even greater obligation than ever to treat the climate crisis as the crisis it is. **The time to take bold action is now.** And here in New York, that's just what we are doing, with a series of critical measures, some of which [passed just this week](#) in the Assembly:

- After having passed two sessions in a row, [an amendment to New York's constitution](#) to make it **the fundamental right of every New Yorker to clean air, clean water and a healthy environment** will now appear on the November ballot. I was so pleased I had the opportunity to cosponsor the amendment this session and strongly advocate for its passage.



- This year's budget [made critical investments](#) in environmental conservation with the **"Restore Mother Nature" Environmental Bond Act**, the largest environmental bond act in New York State's history. It will now go to the voters on the ballot in November 2022. If passed, the funding would finance critical environmental restoration projects, including reducing flood risk for vulnerable communities, investing in more resilient infrastructure, restoring fish and wildlife habitats, and preparing New York to better withstand the impacts of climate change.

- The budget [also invested](#) \$500 million to support New York State's clean water infrastructure and \$300 million in the **Environmental Protection Fund**, including a significant increase in the funds dedicated to protecting farmlands. I was very proud that I advocated for and was able to secure **\$1 million in supplemental grant funding for municipalities, to help them defray the cost of publicly available electric vehicle charging stations.**

- I was delighted to cosponsor ([A.4302](#)), which [passed the Assembly](#) earlier this week, which **sets goals for the transportation industry, including that all in-state sales of passenger cars and trucks be zero-emissions by 2035.** It also sets similar goals for medium-duty and heavy-duty vehicles by 2045, and off-road vehicles and equipment by 2035 where feasible. This will help us meet the rigorous greenhouse gas emission reduction goals set in the historic [Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act of 2019 \(CLCPA\)](#).



- We are working to increase electric vehicle accessibility for more New Yorkers by **creating a more flexible billing system for charging stations**, with the passage of [A.3876](#).



- We also adopted [A.5082](#), which **prohibits hotels from providing small hospitality bottles for personal care products**, to help cut down on plastic waste. The legislation would be effective January 1, 2024, for hotels with 50 or more rooms, and January 1, 2025, for all other hotels. Fortunately, hotels all over the country are [already recognizing](#) the importance of this change.

- Finally, we adopted this week [A.903](#), which **bans the use of wastewater from hydraulic fracturing – or fracking – on highways**. Although fracking itself is banned in New York, up until this point the wastewater from fracking operations, which contains high levels of salt, has continued to be used to melt ice and suppress road dust. However, this practice results in runoff that can contaminate ground water and harm both humans and wildlife. As the wastewater can contain a variety of chemicals, and possibly radioactive contaminants such as ammonium, I am glad that we have taken this extra step.

I am proud to be part of a legislative body that understands the importance of our environment and climate change, and is taking bold steps so that New York State can do its part. **When it comes to the future of our planet, every one of us has a role to play.**

Unemployment Fraud - Be on the Lookout!



We are once again receiving an increased number of calls regarding unemployment insurance fraud - people receiving mail from the Department of Labor about a claim in their name that they did not file. Sometimes they are receiving debit cards for the claims.

If you suspect you are the victim of unemployment insurance fraud, please go to <https://www.labor.ny.gov/agencyinfo/report-fraud.shtm> to learn how you can report the fraud with the NYS Labor Department.

As always, we also are happy to help in any way we can, so please don't hesitate to reach out.

If there are any issues that you would like to see covered in a future newsletter, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at burdickc@nyassembly.gov (or simply reply to this email). **Please also follow me on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for the most up-to-date information.**

Miss any of our previous newsletters? You can [find them here](#).

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Burdick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

DISTRICT OFFICE
100 South Bedford Road
Suite 150
Mount Kisco, NY 10549
914-244-4450

ALBANY OFFICE
LOB 326
Albany, NY 12248
518-455-5397

Assembly District 93 | burdickc@nyassembly.gov