



April 24, 2023

Dear Neighbors,

On Saturday, the world celebrated Earth Day, and I had the opportunity to participate in several events around the district to support the actions, ideas, and spirit we need to build upon and promote to create meaningful changes to protect our environment and reverse the harmful trajectory of climate change. For me and the wonderful environmental conservation advocates I work with, Earth Day does not end on the 22nd of April as our fight to preserve and maintain the health and natural resources of our planet is an urgent, daily priority. I hope that this energy carries throughout my district and beyond, as we collectively demonstrate to our leaders and lawmakers that these vital actions cannot wait.

Further down, I will highlight several of my prime bills addressing many different facets of environmental conservation. Investing in our planet is an investment into ourselves and our future. We have a chance to give our children a better world than the one we are headed towards - let's not squander it!

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### **Update: Redistricting Map Success!**

The New York State Independent Redistricting Commission has released its [updated Assembly Plan for 2023](#), and I am thrilled to announce that our district boundary will remain unchanged! I am so grateful for those who shared their thoughts and concerns and helped

to strengthen our case to keep the towns of Harford, Virgil, and Lapeer within our bounds, preventing the disruption of school districts and economic interests. Redistricting must prioritize keeping communities of interest together and not be influenced by political pressures, and I believe that our voices have helped to ensure that those requirements were met. [You can read the letter I wrote to the IRC back in January here.](#)

# Around the District

## Earth Day Celebration

### **Lime Hollow “Love Where You Play” Stewardship Day**

I kicked off my Earth Day celebration by spending my morning at Lime Hollow helping my fellow volunteers to plant some native species as part of “Love Where You Play Stewardship Day.” I learned about the history and future of this beautiful 400-acre nature center in Cortland County and their amazing outdoor education programs. I’d like to extend a big thank you to Lime Hollow director Ilya Shmulenson and the wonderful staff and volunteers for the excellent work you all do!



## Trumansburg Earth Care Day

Later on, I paid a visit to my beloved hometown, Trumansburg, where incredible community members spent much of the day collecting over 2 pickup truck beds-worth of garbage from all over the village! After the cleanup there was music, food, and a beautiful spirit of community, and I was so happy to connect with and learn from some of the powerful eco-warriors in this area. I'm enormously grateful to the Trumansburg Farmers Market for hosting and to Cait Darfler, the chair of the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council, for

organizing this wonderful event!



## Standing Up for Car Shares

More than 1,400 people utilize [Ithaca Carshare](#), a non-profit transportation service which provides members with 24/7 access to vehicles on an hourly basis. Car shares are an affordable and eco-friendly alternative to private vehicle ownership, allowing for accessible, flexible transportation options for those who don't need or can't afford a car of their own. Unfortunately, car share services around the state are facing an existential threat due to the increasing difficulty of securing insurance. Senator Lea Webb and I [wrote an op-ed published by the Ithaca Voice](#) to highlight this issue as well as our efforts to allow nonprofit risk retention groups to provide automobile insurance to nonprofit organizations throughout New York State ([A5718-A](#)).

Here are some excerpts from stories shared by Ithaca Carshare members highlighting how they use this service to make environmentally conscious choices in their transportation needs:

*“I’m also trying to reduce as much as possible my impacts on the environment and I feel that IthacaCarshare is the best way for me to do so. I feel that it would not be fair that I’d have to change my habits and stop being a good human just because political decision-makers remain insensitive to the climate problems of our planet and their impact on the population.”*

*“We were attracted to Ithaca because of its commitment to and actual environmentally friendly practices, like having all electric cars. While I continue to walk for most errands, I have used Ithaca carshare numerous times to travel further than I can walk or to bring home heavier items than I can carry. The service is affordable for me and most convenient. Without access to a carshare vehicle I will have to rent cars, at greater expense, and have found that I cannot easily rent electric or hybrid vehicles.”*



**Ithaca**  
**CARSHARE**

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## League of Women Voters Meeting

Earlier this month I met with the Tompkins/Cortland League of Women Voters and had the opportunity to discuss in depth how the senate bill S6030, a rollback of the Climate Leadership & Community Protection Act (CLCPA)'s regulations, will undermine our state's progress toward a greener future. This bill's proposed changes to greenhouse gas emissions reporting seem innocuous at first look but will obscure the true impact of various gases through changing certain methods of measurement, intentionally watering down the CLCPA's protections. The bill also seeks to allow trash incinerators as a renewable energy source, and ultimately fulfills the wish list of the fossil fuel, big agriculture, lumber, and manufacturing industries. I dug into the science and explained just how harmful this bill has the potential to be in the [first 25 minutes of this video](#).



# Legislative Update

## **Environment Legislation**

Here are some of my prime sponsored bills that focus on various aspects of environmental conservation. Combating climate change and securing a cleaner, healthier future is fundamental to my work as a lawmaker, and deeply important to me as a citizen of the planet.

### **Fashion Sustainability and Social Accountability Act ([A4333](#))**

The fashion industry is an enormous source of waste and carbon emissions, operating with relatively few regulations that often results in incredibly wasteful manufacturing practices and human rights violations. The Fashion Sustainability and Social Accountability Act calls for the disclosure of supply chain information, including environmental and social impacts, and sets science-based targets for impact reduction. Eco-conscious industry leaders such as Patagonia and Eileen Fisher stand behind this legislation and many others are following suit.

### **Solar Array Tax Credit ([A1013](#))**

This bill would support the transition to renewable solar energy by expanding existing solar tax credits to include people who participate in community solar array power systems.

## **Soil Carbon Sequestration Program ([A4224](#))**

Carbon sequestration is the process of capturing carbon, which would otherwise be released into the air as a greenhouse gas, and storing it underground. There are different methods of capturing and storing carbon and investing in further research will allow for the development of best practices - especially pertaining to agriculture, as carbon removed from the air has the potential to become a useful soil additive. This research would help to improve soil quality, leading to better food production, and could prove to be a vital tool in combating climate change.

## **Agrivoltaics Program ([A4911](#))**

Agrivoltaics, also known as agrisolar or dual-use solar, is an agricultural technique of using land for both farming and generating solar energy. This efficient use of space can help to sustain and protect natural areas, increase the yield of certain crops, and aid in the overall reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in agriculture. The creation of an agrivoltaics research program will allow further development of innovative, science-based solutions for our energy and food-supply needs while promoting biodiversity and a healthier environment.

## **Teacher's Fossil Fuel Divestment Act ([A1101](#))**

This bill would require that the New York State Teacher's Retirement System divest from fossil fuels, so that the value created by NYS teachers is not used to make investments that threaten the future they are working to build.



## **PFAS surface water discharge disclosure act ([A3296](#))**

PFAS, per- and polyfluoroalkyl chemicals, are environmental pollutants that come from the industrial production of plastics. These “forever” chemicals make their way into surface and groundwater, and there is currently no limitation on industries’ discharge of PFAS into the environment. This bill will require the disclosure of PFAS levels for all publicly owned treatment works and would require those discharging industrial waste to identify any PFAS known or suspected in its waste to such treatment works.

## **NY Open Water Data Act ([A3299](#))**

This act will support better data practices in the management and monitoring of New York’s fresh water, creating consistent standards and transparency in the measurement and reporting of data.

## **Environmental Health Tracking System ([A4878](#))**

This bill provides for the development of an environmental health tracking system within the department of health with cooperation from the departments of environmental conservation and labor to gather various environmental data to correlate with disease data with the cooperation of the state university of New York schools of public health at Albany and Buffalo.



Photo by [fingerlakesmuseum.org](http://fingerlakesmuseum.org)

# Community Resources

## **Building Business Skills and Practices for Family Child Care Providers**

From the U.S. Small Business Administration:

**Tuesday, May 2, 9, and 16: 7:00 – 8:45 pm**

This **free** training is hosted by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

This training will be conducted in three sessions designed to include fundamental business competencies needed to build a solid foundation for your successful child care business!

Your single registration will reserve your seat in all three sessions.

- Who can participate? Family Child Care Providers in New York State.
- Where is the training? All 3 sessions will be virtual via ZOOMGOV.
- This training is FREE, but you must register no later than **Friday, April 28th.**

### **Training Topics:**

- Session #1 (Tuesday, 05/02/2023):

Legal formation of business, business banking & record keeping, child care services, and how to add value to customer, competition and understanding market rate.

- Session #2 (Tuesday, 05/09/2023):

Financial projections, income/expenses, budgeting, true time & space calculations and why it is important to know true costs vs. your tax filing. Review of record keeping & your tax returns.

- Session #3 (Tuesday, 05/16/2023):

A review of budgets, program policies & how that affects income and expenses, operations of programs and how that affects income and expenses and overall how to market services to the communities to maximize return on investments of the business.

[Reserve your free e-ticket here!](#)

Please contact Victoria Reynolds with any questions:  
victoria.reynolds@sba.gov

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## **TCPL Homeownership Workshop**

From Tompkins County Public Library:

Tompkins County Public Library, in partnership with Visions Federal Credit Union, is pleased to offer “Steps to Homeownership” on **Tuesday, May 16** from **5:30 to 7:00 pm** in the Digital Lab.

In honor of New Homeowner’s Day on May 1, Visions staff will host a workshop focused on the journey towards owning a home. Topics covered will include setting a budget, saving for a downpayment, credit tips, finding a realtor, and applying for a mortgage.

[Click here to learn more and register.](#)

Questions prior to the workshop can be directed to  
education@visionsfcu.org

# 2023 Tompkins County Free Legal Services Forum



SCAN FOR ZOOM LINK



TOMPKINS COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION HOSTS


## 2023 TOMPKINS COUNTY FREE LEGAL SERVICES FORUM

**Presenters Include:**

**Lance Salisbury, Esq.** (Tompkins County Assigned Counsel's Supervising Attorney)

**Nola Booth, Esq.** (LawNY Skadden Fellow)


**Michaela Rossettie Azemi, Esq.** (Cornell University Law School's Director of Pro Bono Services)

 **MAY 1, 2023** (NATIONAL LAW DAY)

 **1:00 PM TO 2:15 PM**

 **IN PERSON:** TOMPKINS COUNTY LIBRARY  
(BORG WARNER ROOM),  
101 EAST GREEN STREET, ITHACA

 **ZOOM LINK:**  
<https://bit.ly/4leKvHS>  
**PASSWORD:** 247477

 **REFRESHMENTS & SNACKS  
PROVIDED**



Cornell  
Law School



Assigned  
Counsel

In solidarity and health,



Anna Kelles, Ph.D.

Assemblymember, 125th A.D.

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