June 18, 2018

A.10608 (Englebright)

Title: An act to amend the environmental conservation law, the transportation corporations law, and the navigation law, in relation to infrastructure and vessels associated with the production of oil or natural gas in federal waters.

Purpose: Prohibits the use of condemnation of lands for the use of corporations to install infrastructure associated with the production of oil and natural gas in the North Atlantic Planning Area and prohibits vessels from using New York waters if associated with the production of oil and natural gas in the North Atlantic Planning Area.

Statement of Support: The Trump Administration’s draft proposed program for offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration would open 98% of U.S. federal waters to offshore leasing – even in states that have previously registered strong opposition. Virtually all federal waters off all coastal states are at risk, with nine lease sales proposed for the Atlantic Region, from the Florida Straits to Maine. Trump’s proposal would exponentially increase the likelihood of oil spills and other environmental harm. In 2010, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill damaged more than 1,300 miles of coastline; an equivalent disaster in the Atlantic would coat beaches from Savannah to Boston, and devastate Long Island’s coastal ecosystem and economy. New York’s opposition to the Trump plan, and support for renewable energy development, including on-shore and offshore wind, solar and other forms of clean renewable energy has to be solidified through legislative action.

A.10608 will prevent New York State from supporting any oil and natural gas development in the North Atlantic Planning area, working to stop any potentially devastating and irreversible impacts to New York's coastal communities and economy. By prohibiting the leasing of state lands, disallowing condemnation of lands by corporations, and prohibiting the transport of oil or natural gas from the North Atlantic Planning Area this bill would prevent development and thereby protect New York State's environment and economy. Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter Urges the Senate to take up and pass A.10608.