

Advocacy Newsbriefs...

Environmental Legislation Brief...

In the 1970's there was growing concern that weak environmental protection threatened Americans' health and prosperity. Alarmed by environmental disasters like the Cuyahoga River fire, Congress passed many landmark pieces of bipartisan environmental legislation, including the Clean Water Act of 1972, the Clean Air Act of 1970, the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and the 1976 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (main US law regulating the disposal of hazardous waste and solid waste). The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was also established to ensure that public and private entities would adhere to national environmental laws and regulations.

Over the past 40 years Americans have come to view clean air, water and land as part of their national legacy. Yet recently key environmental laws and the EPA itself have come under vigorous attack from Congressional factions using budget concerns as an excuse to roll back federal protection of the environment.

This summer the House of Representatives passed H.R. 2018 (the Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act of 2011), which would remove federal authority to determine standards for water quality and give it to state governments, which are not expected to maintain current quality standards (www.cleanwateraction.org/files/publications/national/HR_2018_opposition_letter.pdf). Last month the House approved the TRAIN Act, which would block the EPA from updating two important air quality standards, the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule and the Mercury and Air Toxics Standard (www.earthtimes.org/politics/train-wreck-bill-passes-house); and still pending is H.R.2584 (Dept. of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012), which seeks to use drastic cuts in EPA funding to weaken its enforcement of laws and regulations. It is clear that other attempts to back pedal on environmental protection will follow. The Senate is expected to consider these bills this fall.

NYS PTA has a long history of supporting regulations to protect environmental quality for our children and communities. Ask your federal legislators for their strong support of laws that will continue to protect the environment for us and our children.

September 18, 2011



everychild. onevoice: We Advocate for ALL children...



**Teacher
Spotlight**

Schenectady School District Elementary Teacher Named 2012 New York State Teacher of the Year

The NYS Board of Regents announced that Kathleen Ferguson has been named the 2012 New York State Teacher of the Year. Ms. Ferguson is a second grade teacher at Jessie T. Zoller Elementary School in Schenectady. Congratulations!



"Advocacy is at the heart of PTA's mission and vision. Taking action provides both parents and PTA leaders with the resources to become more involved with their community at home and their community across the nation."



Transitions to Adulthood Survey (News from Syracuse University Parent Advocacy Center/SUPAC)

The NYS Transition Community of Practice (NYS TCoP) is a group of people who agree to interact regularly to improve practices and address challenges on transition to adulthood throughout a child's school years. Currently NYS TCoP is represented by practitioners across several regions of NYS.

Over the past few years there has been many changes concerning transition. NYS TCoP would like to know: what's going on around transition in NYS? Five minutes of your time and nine quick questions can move us five years ahead, and you can win a great prize by completing the survey which is due by October 30, 2011.

The survey can be accessed online at:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/nystransitioncopsurvey>



The NYS Board of Regents meets monthly, except for August. To access the 2011-2012 meeting schedule, agendas, materials, and webcast opportunities, go to:

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings>