

Environmental Policy and Advocacy Highlights  
June-July 2018

	Issue and source	Who you can contact
1	<p>The US EPA and NHTSA has proposed a rule rolling back fuel efficiency standards that would require automakers to improve fuel efficiency to 54.5 miles per gallon by 2025. If fully implemented, the rules would have cut oil consumption by about 12 billion barrels and reduced carbon dioxide pollution by about six billion tons over the lifetime of all the cars affected by the regulations. (source: most major media outlets)</p> <p>The rule also includes proposed roll-backs of California's 2009 waiver allowing the state to regulate vehicle carbon emissions under the Clean Air Act. (source: Bloomberg)</p> <p>A coalition of 17 states representing 44% of the US population, including NJ, has sued to block the emissions standards rollback (source: inside climate news)</p> <p>EPA website: <a href="https://www.epa.gov/regulations-emissions-vehicles-and-engines/safer-and-affordable-fuel-efficient-vehicles-proposed">https://www.epa.gov/regulations-emissions-vehicles-and-engines/safer-and-affordable-fuel-efficient-vehicles-proposed</a></p>	<p><a href="http://www.regulations.gov">http://www.regulations.gov</a> Docket#: EPA-HQ-OAR-2018-0283 <b>***Comments Due by October 2, 2018***</b></p> <p>EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler (202-564-4700, <a href="mailto:Wheeler.andrew@Epa.gov">Wheeler.andrew@Epa.gov</a>)</p> <p>Christopher Lieske, Office of Air and Radiation, US EPA (734-214-4584, <a href="mailto:lieske.christopher@epa.gov">lieske.christopher@epa.gov</a>)</p> <p>Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao (202-366-4000)</p> <p>President Donald Trump (<a href="https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/">https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/</a>)</p> <p>Governor Phil Murphy (609-292-6000, <a href="http://www.state.nj.us/governor/contact/">www.state.nj.us/governor/contact/</a>)</p> <p>Senator Cory Booker (202-224-3224, <a href="https://www.booker.senate.gov/?p=contact">https://www.booker.senate.gov/?p=contact</a>)</p> <p>Senator Robert Menendez (202-224-4744, <a href="https://www.menendez.senate.gov/contact">https://www.menendez.senate.gov/contact</a>)</p>
2	<p>The US DOI has proposed sweeping changes to the Endangered Species Act that, if enacted, would loosen restrictions on developers by easing rules prohibiting consideration of economic factors and make it more difficult to shield certain threatened categories of species. (source: New York Times)</p>	<p><a href="http://www.regulations.gov">http://www.regulations.gov</a> Docket#: FWS-HQ-ES-2018-0006 <b>***Comments due by September 24, 2018***</b></p>
3	<p>A bill imposing a 5-cent fee on disposable plastic bags (A3267/S2600) has passed the NJ Legislature and is awaiting consideration by Gov. Murphy. Environmental groups are concerned that the bill does not go far enough to require an outright ban, restricts the authority of municipalities to impose their own ban, does not guarantee funds will go to the Lead Abatement Fund, and only covers 2000+ sq ft or chain retailers. (source: northjersey.com)</p>	<p>Governor Phil Murphy (609-292-6000, <a href="http://www.state.nj.us/governor/contact/">www.state.nj.us/governor/contact/</a>)</p>
4	<p>NJ bill A3116/S879 (Chemours/DuPont exemption bill) would allow the import of hazardous waste, including fracking waste, to the Chambers Works in Salem County along the Delaware River. <b>UPDATE: The bill has been amended by the Legislature to address the Governor's concerns and is headed back to the Governor for signature.</b> (source: <a href="http://www.njleg.state.nj.us">www.njleg.state.nj.us</a>)</p>	<p>Governor Phil Murphy (609-292-6000, <a href="http://www.state.nj.us/governor/contact/">www.state.nj.us/governor/contact/</a>)</p>
5	<p>On June 13, the Burlington county Freeholders have proposed a budget that</p>	<p><a href="mailto:freeholders@co.burlington.nj.us">freeholders@co.burlington.nj.us</a></p>

	uses a cut in the farmland preservation and open space tax to offset increased spending and debt servicing. (source: Burlington County Times)	
6	Judge Brett Kavanaugh has been nominated to replace outgoing US Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy. In his 12 years as a federal appellate judge, Kavanaugh has consistently ruled against the US EPA's authority to regulate carbon and other environmental pollutants contributing to climate change. (source: Los Angeles Times)	<p>Senator Cory Booker (202-224-3224, <a href="https://www.booker.senate.gov/?p=contact">https://www.booker.senate.gov/?p=contact</a>)</p> <p>Senator Robert Menendez (202-224-4744, <a href="https://www.menendez.senate.gov/contact">https://www.menendez.senate.gov/contact</a>)</p>
7	The US Senate advanced a bill that would preserve or increase funding for the EPA and DOI in the 2018 budget. (source: The Hill)	<p>Senator Cory Booker (202-224-3224, <a href="https://www.booker.senate.gov/?p=contact">https://www.booker.senate.gov/?p=contact</a>)</p> <p>Senator Robert Menendez (202-224-4744, <a href="https://www.menendez.senate.gov/contact">https://www.menendez.senate.gov/contact</a>)</p>
8	The NJ BPU is drafting a program to implement the "Community Solar Pilot" provision of S877. The program would attempt to make solar more affordable for low-to-moderate income urban areas. (source: NJ Spotlight)	<a href="http://www.bpu.state.nj.us/">http://www.bpu.state.nj.us/</a>
9	A bill sponsored by Senator Troy Singleton (S1486/A909) that would ban styrofoam food containers at public schools and institutions <b>UPDATE: Bill has passed the Senate, is now in the Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee</b> (source: Senator Singleton's website, <a href="http://www.njleg.state.nj.us">www.njleg.state.nj.us</a> )	<p>LD-6 Assemblypersons Louis Greenwald and Pamela Lampitt (856-435-1247)</p> <p>LD-7 Assemblypersons Herb Conaway (856-461-3997) and Carol Murphy (856-735-5334)</p> <p>LD-8 Assemblymen Joe Howarth and Ryan Peters (609-654-1498)</p>
10	The US Supreme Court has refused to block a lawsuit being brought by 21 children and young adults against the federal government, which seeks to compel the government to preserve a clean atmosphere for future generations. Trial is set for October. (source: <a href="http://thinkprogress.org">thinkprogress.org</a> )	