



September 18, 2023

Dear Neighbors,

I am ecstatic to be able to bring you the news that I have wanted to for months: the Carshare bill ([A5718](#)) has been signed! It was a great day in Ithaca on Friday as we celebrated [Gov. Hochul signing the bill](#) with a press conference at the Ithaca Commons. I am excited that Ithaca Carshare and other transportation nonprofits that serve a vital role in our communities, such as Gadabout, will be able to secure the insurance they need through an out of state risk retention group.

Since May 19, Ithaca Carshare has paused its operations and furloughed its staff. This has been difficult on the staff and those in the community who depend on carshare for their transportation needs. It is important to note that Ithaca Carshare does not rely on public funds for its general operating budget. Membership and usage fees pay for the service, vehicles, fuel, insurance, repairs, and maintenance. Grants help pay for conversion to electric vehicles and supporting equitable access to carsharing. New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) has invested \$3 million so far in carsharing in New York, with more planned over the next two years, so passing this bill was critical. There is a six-month implementation period to allow the Department of Motor Vehicles to align necessary systems. I look forward to March 2024 to begin seeing the iconic Ithaca Carshare logos on cars throughout our community again!



# Legislative Update

## New York Fashion Act event

I was in New York City during Fashion Week to celebrate and continue the momentum around my bill [A4333A](#), The Fashion Sustainability and Social Accountability Act, at an event with the [Act on Fashion Coalition](#), including

legislative co-sponsors, fashion brands, and even a few celebrities. While Fashion Week is typically just focused on appreciating the latest designs on the runway, it is important that we also focus on the fashion industry's global climate impact and labor practices. The fashion industry is responsible for as much as 8.6% of global greenhouse gas emissions and has been permitted to operate unchecked by regulations that would curb both pollution and the use of exploited, forced, and child labor. Government must play an equal and active role with the industry to achieve human rights and environmental sustainability targets. The Fashion Act is good for the environment, good for workers, good for industry, and good for New York. I look forward to the bill moving forward in the upcoming legislative session.



## Columbia Climate School Climate Week Panel

Do you want to learn more about the Fashion Act and the fashion industry's global impact? I will be presenting on a virtual panel during Climate Week with Columbia Climate School on **Sept. 19 from 11 am - 12:30 p.m.**, and all are invited to [register for the free webinar](#). The fashion industry is a cultural and economic powerhouse that contributes significantly to global greenhouse gas emissions, water pollution, and biodiversity loss. While brands are pledging to adopt more environmentally friendly practices, substantial efforts are still required across the fashion value chain to meet the Paris Agreement targets. I am honored to join the panel of experts as we explore the actions and opportunities in policymaking, materials, design, and business practices that can help accelerate the sustainability transition within the fashion industry.

**CLIMATE ACTIONS IN FASHION:  
POLICY, BUSINESS, AND INNOVATION**

 **September 19 2023**  
**11:00 AM to 12:30 PM Eastern Time**

The fashion industry, a cultural and economic powerhouse, contributes significantly to global greenhouse gas emissions, water pollution, and biodiversity loss. While brands are pledging to adopt more environmentally friendly practices, substantial efforts are still required across the fashion value chain to meet the Paris Agreement targets. Our expert panel will explore the actions and opportunities in policy-making, materials, design, and business practices that can help accelerate the sustainability transition within the fashion industry.

**PANEL DISCUSSION | Q&A**

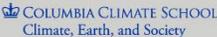
**Dr. Anna Kelles**  
Assemblymember  
New York State Assembly

**Sarah Kent**  
Chief Sustainability Correspondent  
Business of Fashion

**Tiago Valente**  
Global Creative Director  
Journee

**Neeka Mashouf**  
CEO & Co-founder  
Rubi Laboratories

**Sally Qiu**  
Research Associate  
Columbia University  
(Moderator)

 **COLUMBIA CLIMATE SCHOOL**  
Climate, Earth, and Society

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## Legislative Briefing for Immunity Bill A7471

I hosted a virtual legislative briefing for my colleagues in the Assembly and Senate and their staff to learn more about my sponsored bill [A7471](#) and hear

from a panel of advocates and experts. The bill provides immunity from prosecution for prostitution to those who are victims of crime or who are witnesses to crime, and who report such crimes or assist in the investigation or prosecution.

As the horrific Gilgo Beach murders are in the national spotlight, we as legislators have a responsibility to act to protect those who are among the most at risk of harm. This is common sense legislation that is supported by law enforcement and that has successfully passed in other states with bipartisan support. This concept is similar to the 'Good Samaritan' law enacted in 2011 to protect people who seek help for someone suffering an overdose. It is in the public interest to encourage victims and witnesses to come forward and aid law enforcement. This bill will help deter violent crime and protect vulnerable New Yorkers.

# A DECADE WASTED:

HOW IMMUNITY  
COULD HAVE  
SOLVED THE GILGO  
BEACH MURDERS

Webinar on A7471 (Kelles) /  
S1966 (Sepulveda)

Why Sex Workers and  
Survivors of Trafficking Need  
Protection in Reporting Crimes  
Committed Against Them



PANELIST

### Ceyenne Doroshow

Founder and Director of  
G.L.I.T.S. and star of HBO's  
*The Stroll* and *Last Call*



MODERATED BY

### Melissa Broudo, Esq.

Co-Director, SOAR Institute

## SPEAKERS



INTRODUCTION BY

### Assembly Member Anna Kelles

Sponsor of A7471



PANELIST

### Jonathon Junig, Esq.

Chief of Human Trafficking  
Unit, New York County District  
Attorney's Office



PANELIST

### Abigail Swenstein, Esq.

Staff Attorney, Exploitation  
Intervention Project at The  
Legal Aid Society



PANELIST

### Laura Mullen

Survivor Advisory Board Co-  
Founder and President, ECLI-  
VIBES

# Anna in the News

## **New York Legislators Urge President Biden to Declare a “Climate Emergency”**

I joined New York Senator James Sanders Jr. and nearly 60 other NY legislators urging President Biden to declare a “Climate Emergency” under the National Emergencies Act. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has issued a report this past March with a final warning that Earth is likely to cross a critical threshold for global warming within the next decade. The letter was sent to President Biden ahead of the UN Ambition Summit which will be held September 20, 2023 in New York City.

My official statement reads, “Although President Biden's actions over the last two years to fight climate change have been the strongest of any U.S. President to date, there are key actions that have caused concern among environmentalists. We are at a final climate crossroads where the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has stated that we must reduce our total global greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030 to prevent the worst-case scenario climate change outcomes. We cannot afford to compromise anymore. Because of the profound inaction by prior presidents, and in some recent cases gutting of our existing environmental laws, it is up to the current administration to catch up and leap forward in our progress. We have 6.5 years remaining to reach 50% GHG reductions. The only way this will happen is if the President declares a climate state of emergency, thus enabling access to executive powers to preserve our future habitat, and the habitat of all other species on which we depend for our survival. This is a time where we can truly and accurately say it is a 'now or never' decision.

We urge the president to choose now to make the change we need as a country.”

# Around the District

## **Tour of Wagner Hardwood**

I appreciated the opportunity to tour Wagner Hardwood Lumber, whose mill and property are partially in the district, in the southwest corner of Newfield. I learned about wood product manufacturing and forest issues as they relate to sustainable forestry. Given how long it takes to grow a hardwood tree, the tour reinforced for me how important our work of building the circular economy is. Deconstructing older buildings (rather than demolishing them) and reclaiming hardwood lumber for reuse are critical components of a circular economy. I look forward to applying what I learned on our visit as we craft future legislation.



## **New York State Extends Deadline for Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act Project Ideas Survey**

New York State [has extended the deadline](#) to submit project ideas for funding through the \$4.2 billion Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act survey from Sept. 15 to **Sept. 30, 2023**. [The survey](#) has collected hundreds of project ideas from potential applicants and interested stakeholders so far, but few from the Finger Lakes region. Submission of the survey is not a formal funding application, but it will help NY understand the needs of regions and impact the final funding guidelines. I encourage all municipal leaders, district organizations and interested constituents to submit your ideas on the survey!



## Clean Water, Clean Air & Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act

# Community Resources

### **Flu and COVID Immunizations**

As the official start of autumn approaches this week, so does the start of flu season and the likelihood of increased COVID cases. It is a good idea to get [a refresher on how to protect yourself and others](#). The New York State Department of Health [website](#) has helpful information about flu and when to get your flu shot. There is an [updated COVID vaccine booster](#) on the horizon, and it may make sense for you to wait until the new formulation is available before scheduling your COVID booster. As always, consult with your healthcare provider on which schedule and shots make sense for your personal situation as we act collectively to protect the wellbeing of our community.

### **Celebrating 40 Years of HospiCare**

Congratulations to HospiCare as they celebrate 40 years! HospiCare is an organization dear to me, and I have supported them through the Women

Swimmin' Event for several years. HospiCare is hosting friends for a community celebration to share stories, memories and good food on Thursday, Sept. 21 from 5 - 7 p.m. The event is free and all are welcome. Please [RSVP on the website](#) if you are able to join!

## **Reminder: Discrimination Financial Assistance Program for Farmers**

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) includes funding (from section 22007) to provide financial reparations to farmers, ranchers and forest landowners who experienced discrimination from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) farm lending program prior to January 1, 2021. Impacted farmers can [learn more about the assistance program](#), review the [eligibility requirements](#), and [file an application](#) before the October 31st, 2023 deadline.

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In good health,



Anna Kelles, Ph.D.

Assemblymember, 125th A.D.

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