

## VETO MESSAGE – No. 70

TO THE SENATE:

I am returning herewith, without my approval, the following bill:

Senate Bill Number 1725–A, entitled:

"AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to the protection of certain streams"

NOT APPROVED

This bill would expand the definition of regulated streams under the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) Article 15 protection of waters program to include "Class C" waterways, thereby requiring a permit prior to disturbance. It would also add an exemption from permitting for any application from a soil and water conservation district that has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Environmental Conservation. Class C waterways support fisheries and are suitable for non-contact activities such as fishing.

This bill is identical to legislation I vetoed last year, and has significant practical and fiscal implications. I have made the protection of clean water and natural resources a key priority of my administration and will continue to do so. However, this bill would have significant regulatory impacts on state and local transportation projects and would carry substantial costs for the State, as well as for local governments and the communities that would bear the impact of these new requirements.

Therefore, I am constrained to veto this bill.

The bill is disapproved.

(signed) KATHY HOCHUL

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