



# SUPPORT

## **A. 3028-A/S. 3526-A (Fahy/Breslin)**

*AN ACT to amend the town law, in relation to authorizing the town of Bethlehem to establish community preservation funds; to amend the tax law, in relation to authorizing the town of Bethlehem to impose a real estate transfer tax with revenues therefrom to be deposited in said community preservation fund; and providing for the repeal of certain provisions upon expiration thereof*

The New York League of Conservation Voters supports A. 3028-A/S. 3526-A (Fahy/Breslin), which would amend the town law of Bethlehem, authorizing the establishment of a community preservation fund to protect open space.

As development in Bethlehem continues to expand, it is increasingly difficult for the town to conserve its natural areas, farmland, and historic sites. Community preservation funds give municipalities the resources to protect natural land and resources in perpetuity, resulting in thousands of acres of preserved open space, parks, forests, wetlands, ecologically-sensitive environments, and historic sites.

This legislation would allow Bethlehem to establish its own community preservation fund, funded by real estate transfer tax to be approved in a referendum, which would create a path for the town to maintain its unique character by supplying the necessary resources to protect, improve, and support its environmental assets.

For these reasons, the New York League of Conservation Voters strongly urges passage of A. 3028-A/S. 3526-A.

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