



SUPPORT

A. 4740-A/S. 5554-A (Rozić/Liu)

AN ACT to amend the real property tax law, in relation to the green roof tax abatement

The New York League of Conservation Voters supports A. 4740-A/S. 5554-A (Rozić/Liu), which would reauthorize New York City's property tax credit for green roofs and enhance it in five priority community districts.

Green roofs are vegetation that cover at least 50% of a building's rooftop and are typically native plants or plants that are particularly good at filtering rain water. Green roofs have several environmental benefits. First, they absorb and filter rain water, easing the load on sewers and decreasing the likelihood of a sewer overflow event during heavy rain. Second, they lessen the urban heat island effect and its associated negative impacts on human health. Third, they help to purify polluted air in urban areas. New York City currently offers a property tax abatement of \$5.23 per square foot for green roofs, up to a total of \$200,000. The tax abatement program expires on June 30, 2019.

A. 4740-A/S. 5554-A would reauthorize the green roof tax abatement and authorize a more generous abatement in five designated community districts. The legislation would authorize an abatement of \$15 per square foot, up to a total of \$200,000, in five community districts identified by a city agency to be designated by the mayor that are priority combined sewer overflow areas and are lacking in green space. This would increase use of the green roof abatement and help New York City reach its goals for decreased CSO events.

For these reasons, the New York League of Conservation Voters strongly urges passage of A. 4740-A/S. 5554-A.

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