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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The *Canal System Revitalization Act* must be STOPPED!

With an unprecedented lack of transparency and public discussion, a Last minute legislation, introduced as the *Canal System Revitalization Act*, was submitted in a 30-day budget amendment to the 2021 NY State Budget. This act would create the *New York Canal Revitalization Trust*, a new public benefit corporation to support the act's purposes.

Canal New York Marketing and Business Alliance strongly urges the NYS Legislature to OMIT the New Part VV of the Executive Budget Amendments (TED Article VII Bill).

This legislation does not remove the New York Power Authority's management and operational responsibilities, but it proposes substantial changes to existing legislation including removal of the Canal Recreationway Commission, a longstanding advisory body.

Passage of the current legislation, including creation of the CRC needed an amendment to the state constitution with two state-wide votes and passage by two separately elected legislatures. Following numerous public hearings, it was enacted in 1992. The CRC's role as an advisory commission is to provide input in all aspects of the canal system.

The stated purpose of the *Canal System Revitalization Act* is to create a mechanism to support revitalization of the New York State Canal System, and address matters of public importance. While Canal New York strongly supports revitalization efforts, it is concerned with the tone, implications and vagueness of the bill's findings and statement of purpose as well as the lack of detail regarding funding levels and sources.

Canal New York recognizes that a sound funding structure is vital to the future of New York's canals and because of that, believes its creation deserves further scrutiny, clarity, and public involvement than has been offered with this proposed legislation.

Canal New York Marketing & Business Alliance is a nonprofit business league dedicated to serve as the one generally accepted private sector entity dedicated to tourism, marketing, legislative advocacy, and business collaboration. We support existing and new business opportunities within New York State's Canal Communities.