



Happy Friday. I hope you got through the snow all right yesterday.

Just a few quick updates out of Albany this week---

### **Environmental Conservation**

[I spoke out forcefully on the Assembly floor in favor of the City Council "BYO Bag" rule. But I was outvoted. The Senate and Assembly both approved a one-year moratorium on the City's five-cent bag fee. Click to watch my remarks from the floor on the issue.](#)

**"Conservation is never easy. It always takes sacrifice," I said.** "This bill will make sure that future generations have a better, healthier planet."

**As I told the Brooklyn Eagle:** "Remove one plastic bag from a store, and you remove one plastic bag from a tree, a landfill, an ocean."

Over 120 years ago, the New York State Legislature passed a series of bills that would lead to the creation of the Catskill State Park. That State Park ended up allowing for New York City to have fresh and clean drinking water today. New York has always led the charge to protect the environment and while I am serving in the State Assembly I will do all that I can to keep it that way.

### **New York Votes Act**

I joined with Attorney General Eric Schneiderman and many other elected allies and advocates earlier this week at a press conference in support of his "New York Votes Act" bill package. This package includes improvements to Early Voting, Automatic Voter Registration, "No-Excuse" Absentee Voting, Consolidated Election Days, and more. In the coming weeks I will be introducing legislation that will do even more to increase voter participation, please stay tuned.

### **Immigrant Rights**

Finally, I was proud to join with my Assembly Majority colleagues in voting for [The New York State Liberty and Dream Act](#), both of which I was happy to co-sponsor. These bills together will ensure the fair and ethical treatment of ALL New Yorkers and ensure that our immigrant children have the educational opportunities they deserve. **Now more than ever, we must protect our friends and neighbors from the vile policies of the White House.** The threat is real. President Trump means business, and we have no choice but to act. For generations, New York City has been home to people from all over the world. They come here for a better life, for freedom from oppression, for their chance at their American Dream. If we turn our backs on them now, we turn our backs on everything our country and our city stands for.

Stay warm out there!

Robert Carroll

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