



FROM: Campaign for New York's Future

Contact: Bud Perrone (212) 843-8068 or Iva Benson (212) 843-8271
Rubenstein Communications

Draft Release

CAMPAIGN FOR NEW YORK'S FUTURE EXPANDS ITS EFFORTS TO PROMOTE PLANYC 2030

New York, May 16, 2007 – The Campaign for New York's Future, a broad and growing coalition now comprised of 80 environmental, public health, civic, labor, community and business organizations – continues to expand its effort in support for Mayor Michael Bloomberg's bold and visionary PlaNYC 2030 goals, which were unveiled by the Mayor on Earth Day and seek to address the growing menace of global warming as well as improve the health and quality of life of all New York City residents.

A delegation of approximately 30 members of the Campaign for New York's Future are traveling to Albany today to meet with more than two dozen state legislators and other public officials. Today's trip follows a series of meetings on Monday, May 14, in which key coalition leaders joined Mayor Bloomberg to call for urgent State action on the Mayor's key PlaNYC initiatives.

In addition, the Campaign for New York's Future is unveiling its new website, (www.CampaignForNewYork.org). The website provides comprehensive information on the major goals and proposals of the Mayor's PlaNYC initiative, including pertinent information on topics such as air quality, brownfields, congestion pricing, water quality, environmental efficiency and climate change; breaks down the benefits of the Mayor's plan by borough; and links to key studies and reports by member organizations.

The Campaign for New York's Future also is in the final stages of preparing an educational brochure to be mailed to 9,000 opinion leaders in New York City, and is working on other plans to build support for PlaNYC, such as a speaker's bureau, meetings with key City and State decision-makers and advertising.

“The Campaign for New York City's future represents an unprecedented partnership of a diverse array of New York City organizations in support of a City initiative,” said Regional Plan Association President Bob Yaro, who is part of the Campaign for New York delegation meeting with the State Legislature today. “Mayor Bloomberg's plan will make New York City a better and healthier place to live. The coalition is committing its combined resources and power to help implement PlaNYC for the benefit New York’s eight million residents.”

ALBANY INITIATIVES

In meetings with New York State legislators and the Spitzer administration, the Campaign for New York’s Future is advocating urgent action, prior to June’s close of the current legislative session, on key PlaNYC initiative requiring amendments to State law. These actions comprise four main categories:

Transportation – Among other actions, the coalition is advocating creation of a new Sustainable, Mobility and Regional Transportation (SMART) Finance Authority; authorization to use cameras on buses to enforce Bus Rapid Transit lanes; and authorization of residential parking districts within New York City.

Energy – Key proposed actions include authorization to create a New York City Energy Planning Board with representatives appointed by the Governor, the Mayor and utility companies; creation of a New York City Energy Efficiency Authority; authorization for the New York Power Authority to issue long-term power contracts; amendment to the City Charter requiring that the City dedicate 10 percent of the City’s energy bill to be used on energy conservation projects; and tax abatements for the installation of solar panels.

Brownfields – The Campaign for New York’s Future is calling on Albany to amend the State Brownfield Cleanup Program to reallocate tax credits, incentivize greater community participation, and expand eligibility to cover New York City specific contamination; and to authorize creation of a voluntary Brownfield cleanup program targeting 600 acres of brownfields in the City not currently eligible for the State program.

Air and Water Quality – The coalition is calling on Albany to amend Tax Law to provide for a local sales tax exemption on all hybrid vehicles purchased within New York City; and amend the Real Property Tax Law to provide property tax abatements on the installation of green roofs to reduce stormwater runoff.

The Campaign for New York's Future is a coalition of civic, business, environmental, labor, community and public health organizations that support the goals and strategic direction of PlaNYC. Our goal is to make every neighborhood in NYC a great place to live and work, as well as make a significant contribution to fighting climate change. The coalition aims to encourage public debate – as well as fair and effective action – now and in the years to come. We recognize the need to both seize the opportunity for immediate action and to insure that this long-term plan evolves with continued dialogue and changing conditions.

###