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**THE LEAGUE  
OF WOMEN VOTERS**  
*of New York State*

**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF:  
A.6859/Englebright, et al S. 884/Avella et al**

TO: New York State Assembly

DATE: May 5, 2015

*Subject: Relates to the uniform treatment of waste from the exploration, development, extraction, or production of crude oil or natural gas. This bill would require hazardous waste produced from oil and natural gas activities to be subject to the requirements for treatment of hazardous waste.*

**The League of Women Voters of New York State strongly supports A.6859/S.884.**

Currently, the regulations promulgated by the Department of Environmental Conservation that govern the waste produced by the oil and natural gas industries exempt "drilling fluids, produced waters, and other wastes associated with the exploration, development or production of crude oil, natural gas or geothermal energy" from being regulated as hazardous waste. This exemption is in place despite the fact that the waste resulting from the exploration, development, extraction and production of crude oil and natural gas may be hazardous in many instances. This legislation would supersede that regulatory exemption by amending Section 27-0903 of the Environmental Conservation Law to ensure that when waste from these operations meets the definition of hazardous waste, it will be treated in a manner consistent with other hazardous wastes.

For decades the League of Women Voters of New York State has held positions urging vigilance with respect to protecting air and water quality and public health. The Marcellus Shale formation contains naturally occurring radioactive materials, such as uranium, as well as heavy metals, such as barium and chromium, which can become a part of the liquid or solid waste stream. If not treated properly, hazardous waste can, among other concerns, lead to contaminated air, drinking water, soil, and food. This legislation is needed to prevent threats to New York's natural resources, environment and public health.

***The League of Women Voters of New York State strongly urges your support of A.6859/S884.***