



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Hugh T. Farley

## SEN. FARLEY REPORTS SENATE PASSES BILL TO HELP PREVENT ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES

SENATOR HUGH T. FARLEY March 1, 2016



State Senator Hugh T. Farley (R, C, I – Schenectady) reported that he and his colleagues in the New York State Senate passed legislation (S834) on Feb. 29th to deter criminal activity and prevent environmental crimes. The measure would make it a criminal offense for those who intentionally or recklessly damage the environment while committing another crime.

During a related incident that took place in the Town of Greece, Monroe County, criminals broke into a spare electrical transformer owned by Rochester Gas and Electric, stealing

copper to resell for profit. The removal of the copper resulted in 4,800 gallons of oil being drained from the transformer, causing land and water contamination of the surrounding environment -- an estimated remediation cost of over \$1 million.

There are currently no criminal mischief statutes that properly address this type of environmental devastation. This bill would make crimes that result in large-scale environmental damage, either intentionally or recklessly, a class C felony.

The bill will be sent to the Assembly.