



THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

MICAH Z. KELLNER  
65<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

September 10, 2007

Hon. Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator  
313 Hart Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Hillary Rodham Clinton  
United States Senator  
476 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Charles B. Rangel  
Chairman, Ways and Means  
United States House of Representatives  
Dean, New York Congressional Delegation  
2354 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Schumer and Clinton and Chairman Rangel:

As New York State Assembly Members who represent New York City, we are writing to ask for your support in securing federal funds for the New York City Watershed. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has requested \$15 million in EPA funds and \$10 million in Army Corps funds for the Watershed in the Federal Fiscal Year 2008 budget. So far, the House of Representatives has allocated \$1 million in EPA funds, and no money has yet been allocated by the US Senate. All federal funding is matched by State and local governments.

It is difficult to overemphasize the importance of the New York City Watershed to the City and State of New York. The Watershed is the largest unfiltered drinking water supply in the nation, providing 1.3 billion gallons of affordable, high-quality drinking water daily to more than 9 million consumers in New York City — half the population of the entire state of New York.

**EPA Funding Request — \$15 million**

Pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Amendments of 1996, EPA funding for the New York City Watershed will enable federal, state, and NYC regulators to better assess the condition of the Watershed, evaluate the effectiveness of protection programs, and appropriately administer remedies to safeguard the water supply and upstate communities.

Investing in the New York City Watershed is fiscally prudent. Currently the City of New York receives a waiver through the Filtration Avoidance Determination (FAD) that allows it to provide high-quality unfiltered drinking water to residents and businesses. If we do not invest in the Watershed today, eventually the quality of our water may diminish. If that happens, the City will lose its waiver and be required to construct a filtration plant at an estimated cost of \$8-10 billion — a cost which neither the City nor the State will be able to bear without assistance from the federal government.

**Army Corps Funding Request — \$10 million**

Army Corps funding will enable design and construction assistance for water-related environmental infrastructure, resource protection, or development projects. In addition to being vital funding towards the avoidance of filtration facility construction, this funding also helps small municipalities in the Catskills region to protect their water supplies and economies.

For more information about both of these projects, please see Governor Eliot Spitzer and DEC Commissioner Alexander B. Grannis' 2008 Appropriation Requests document.

Protecting the Watershed is sound environmental and economic policy. By dedicating a relatively small amount of funding to these projects we can preserve the New York City Watershed for future generations, and prevent the much larger costs of constructing an \$8-10 billion filtration plant in the future. As the Congressional conference committees meet to finalize the Fiscal Year 2008 budget, we urge you to make protecting the New York City Watershed a priority.

Very truly yours,



Micah Z. Kellner  
Assembly Member

The following Assembly Members join me in asking for your support:

Jonathan Bing	Richard Gottfried	Peter Rivera
James Brennan	Carl Heastie	Linda Rosenthal
Alec Brook-Krasny	Brian Kavanagh	Anthony Seminero
Stephen Cymbrowitz	Alan Maisel	Matt Titone
Jeffrey Dinowitz	Joan L. Millman	Lou Tobacco
Herman D. Farrell	Daniel O'Donnell	Keith Wright
Deborah Glick	Felix Ortiz	
Aurelia Greene	Audrey Pfeffer	

cc: New York Congressional Delegation  
Governor Eliot Spitzer  
Commissioner Alexander B. Grannis, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation  
Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg  
New York City Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn