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July 9, 2018

Lieutenant General Todd Semonite
United States Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20314

Dear Lieutenant General Semonite,

This week the Army Corps of Engineers is hosting three public meetings to examine a proposal to build barriers that are designed to protect New York City from severe storms. The Lower Hudson Valley, specifically Westchester and Rockland Counties, is the largest population center outside of New York City and serves as the home to the heart of the Hudson River Estuary. Considering the ecological sensitivities and economic investments that our region continues to explore, I am respectfully requesting an additional meeting be scheduled in the Village of Sleepy Hollow to allow additional information and input be provided.

I have already heard from residents, local business owners and government officials from the Westchester-Rockland Region concerned about the impact this will have on the river's health and economic investments. The current meetings in New York City and Poughkeepsie simply deny our ability to ask questions and have our concerns heard.

To be clear, I fully recognize the need to explore ways to address the impacts of extreme weather. Our region has faced many significant weather events from Superstorm Sandy to Hurricane Irene to winter storms Quinn and Riley. There is no doubt that we need to take additional steps to improve our infrastructure and preparations for extreme weather events. However, our region must have a seat at the table for these conversations.

The federal government has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in other estuaries along the East Coast. While the Hudson River has been consistently overlooked, this is a great opportunity to work together to find viable solutions to address its many needs. I stand ready and willing to partner with you in an effort to achieve this, beginning with an additional scoping meeting for the public.

Wishing you the best,

Dr. Terrence P. Murphy

