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THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK

CHAIR
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COMMITTEES
BANKS
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT
MENTAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

MEMBER
HEROIN TASK FORCE

July 31, 2018

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

Dear Lieutenant General Todd Semonite,

Earlier in the month, the Army Corps of Engineers hosted three public meetings to examine a proposal to build barriers that are designed to protect New York City from the impact of severe storms. These meetings were held in Poughkeepsie, New York City, and Newark, New Jersey. Despite expressed concern from residents and organizations in other areas of New York, additional public meetings have yet to be scheduled. In particular, the Hudson Valley and Long Island, two of the biggest population centers outside of New York City, deserve seats at the table in this essential discussion.

To allow for the continuation of this conversation, we respectfully request that the United States Army Corps of Engineers, as well as the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation extend the comment period for this proposal from the current 40 days to a minimum 90 days. Considering this proposal will potentially impact 2,150 square miles, this extension would allow for additional public meetings to be scheduled in other affected areas of the state, specifically in the Hudson Valley and Long Island. New Yorkers need more time to become informed about the proposal and deserve the opportunity to join the conversation. In comparison, the United States Coast Guard gathered comments and feedback for six months pertaining to their proposal to establishing 10 new long-term anchorage sites for oil barges.

In addition to extending the comment period, we also request that more information be shared with the public, including the studies that the United States Army Corps of Engineers is using to evaluate alternatives. Please be advised that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is receiving similar correspondence regarding these requests.

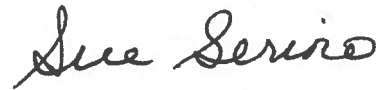
We recognize the need to find new ways to prepare for extreme weather events in our region and continue to stand ready and willing to work with the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to do so.

Extending the comment period of this proposal will allow for a more transparent and productive dialog between New Yorkers and the federal government.

Sincerely,



Dr. Terrence P. Murphy
NYS Senator
40th District



Senator Sue Serino
NYS Senate
41st District



Senator Elaine Phillips
NYS Senate
7th District

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July 31, 2018

Commissioner Basil Seggos
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233

Dear Commissioner Basil Seggos,

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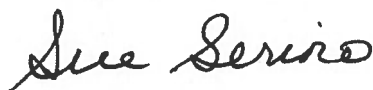


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