



March 18, 2025

The Honorable Kathleen Hochul
Governor
State of New York
New York State Capitol Bldg.
Albany, NY 12224

RE: SWAP PROGRAM (S. 1850/A. 6012)

Dear Governor Hochul:

We are writing as a unified Town Board of the Town of Hillsdale to enthusiastically support the SWAP Program as sponsored by State Senator Michelle Hinchey and Assemblymember Anna Kelles. As a town with a small sewer district (70 users), we understand the unique challenges of sustaining a wastewater facility.

Having a formula-driven program, like CHIPS, which would ensure that Hillsdale receives an annual allocation from New York State would greatly improve our long-term capital planning, thereby saving money over time.

Our wastewater system was cutting-edge technology when we installed it in 2008 and was directly responsible for mitigating the unsanitary conditions and allowing our business district to expand. Businesses such as the Roe Jan Brewery, Cook & Larder, HGS Home Chef and Twisted Sisters Coffee Shop all were made possible by the municipal wastewater system. These new businesses along with existing establishments such as Herrington's, Hillsdale General Store, and Freshtown Supermarket make for a vibrant retail hub for Hillsdale residents as well as surrounding communities. Hillsdale has been held up as an example of the economic expansion that is possible with a municipal wastewater system.

Now that the system is nearing the 20-year mark, Hillsdale Sewer District #1 is facing a unique set of challenges. First and foremost is the burden carried by a relatively small number of participants to generate the fee revenue needed for needed upgrades and rehabilitation. While the Sewer District is wholly owned, operated and managed by the Town of Hillsdale, the Town is unable to use any taxpayer money to fund the enterprise as per New York State Law that mandates that Sewer Districts be self-funding. The burden falls squarely on the shoulder of the 70 members who pay monthly fees to fund the district.

We cannot stress enough how important and vital a program like SWAP would be to our Sewer District and our community at large. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

D. Michael Dvorchak

Jamie Carano Nordenstrom

Tom Carty

Irwin Feld

Joanna Virello

Cc: Senator Hinchey, Assemblymember Kelles, Assemblymember Barrett

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