



Didi Barrett

Assemblymember 106th District
Columbia County
Dutchess County

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July 24, 2019

Basil Seggos, Commissioner
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233

Dear Commissioner Seggos,

While the Town of Hillsdale is not directly in my assembly district, my constituents often shop and dine in the hamlet, and I am writing in support of their Water Quality Improvement Project grant application to expand its current waste treatment plant to accommodate new growth.

Since the installation of the original sewer system in 2008, the Town has made a number of critical investments in Hillsdale infrastructure. The Town was the first in Columbia County to be designated a Clean Energy Community by the New York State Energy Research and Development Agency. It completed four high impact projects and received an \$80,000 grant which is being used to install LED street lights in the Hillsdale Hamlet and solar panels on the roof of the Town's Highway Department Garage. The Hamlet of Hillsdale was designated a Historic District, making substantial tax credits available to individuals making improvements and renovations to historic structures. Further, the town invested in the installation of new sidewalks, benches, and historic street lighting along Main Street.

As a result of these investments, new restaurants and retail shops have moved into the downtown area. In addition, the Town has experienced an influx of new residents attracted to the area's scenic beauty and many options for outdoor recreation. The latter includes the extension of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail to downtown Hillsdale. This development has pushed the existing sewer system to maximum capacity, so much so that the Department of Environmental Conservation has given the system a very poor rating.

With help from this grant, the Town of Hillsdale will be able to expand its waste treatment capacity to better serve the greater community. Thank you for your consideration of this grant application. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office with any questions.

Sincerely,

Didi Barrett
Member of Assembly, 106th District