



Columbia County Board of Supervisors

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July 22, 2019

Basil Seggos, Commissioner
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-0001

RE: Town of Hillsdale's application for Water Quality Improvement Program grant funding.

Dear Commissioner Seggos:

Over the past few years, the Mid-Hudson Region has witnessed the resurgence of its historic villages and hamlets. The fine architectural heritage of the area, informed with the principles of Smart Growth, have brought people back into these communities of immense charm. Much has to be done to support this more environmentally sustainable quality of life. Restructuring and enhancing roads, water processing and distribution as well as waste management are all issues that face these older communities. Partnerships with the State and federal government can be an enormous help.

The Town of Hillsdale is a fine example of this. Its hamlet core, founded in the 18th century, has long been decimated by its location at the nexus of State Routes 22 and 23. This has been, until recently, a set of circumstances that has left the village area unfunctional commercially, and filled with historic stores and houses that have been inaccessible to each other.

With the help of funding from the Federal Highway Administration and the NYS Department of Transportation, Hillsdale has narrowed the roads at their intersection and introduced sidewalks and crosswalks to enhance pedestrian safety. Historic reproduction lighting has been added as well.

The result has been a phenomenal resurgence of the village area as a walkable community, with new restaurants, stores, restored residences and even a brewery setting up shop.

The result of these efforts is, inevitably, stress on the Town's waste water collection and processing facilities. Of much concern to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, the Town has been required to ship out the collected increased effluent as its processing system is inadequate to manage the flows.

I'm writing in support of the Town of Hillsdale's request for Water Quality Improvement Program grant funding. Paired with its application to the NY State Environmental Facilities Corporation's Clean Water State Revolving Fund for loan financing, this project will:

- 1) Reduce storm water inflows into the Town's system,
- 2) Increase processing capability to effectively manage current waste flows,
- 3) Increase processing capacity to the system's allocated SPDES permitted capacity,
- 4) Increase processing capacity to support the projected flows that will result as the community continues its redevelopment.

Please give the Town of Hillsdale's submission your full consideration.

Sincerely,



Matt B. Murell
Chairman