NICK LALOTA
New York's First District

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3201

May 10, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Town of Brookhaven Miller Place-Sound Beach Drainage Project in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Town of Brookhaven, located at 1 Independence Hill, Farmingville, New York 11738.

The funding would be used to install two diffusion wells at the bottom of their new southwest quadrant recharge basin. The diffusion wells will help settle out sediment and increase the storage volume and leaching capabilities of the proposed Recharge Basin. Additionally, this funding would go towards constructing a recharge basin and replacing an old, inefficient 24" drainage pipe with a 30" pipe. This seemingly small upgrade will significantly reduce flooding, making it a cost-effective solution in the long run. Lastly, this project would help fund the replacement of deteriorating retaining walls and headwalls that have been weakening over the years and restore pavement, reconstruct revetment, replace 3 damaged leaching basins, replace damaged asphalt tip-up gutter, and replace washed-away soil.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because in 2021, Hurricane Ida and subsequent serious rainstorms caused severe damage within the Town's 259.44 square-mile boundary, particularly in the Woodhull Landing community in the Miller Place-Sound Beach area. Damaged roadways have been stabilized but need to be fully repaired, and prevention measures need to be installed now to mitigate further storm damage in the future. Under existing conditions, there's not enough storage in the leaching system to handle stormwater runoff, affecting shoreline stability and the water quality that directly discharges into the Long Island Sound. Additionally, the Town's proposed project to rehabilitate its drainage infrastructure will address flood, erosion, pollution, and public health risks in the near term rather than responding to severe weather damage after the fact at greater cost and with greater risk for devastating consequences for this otherwise vibrant, popular, and unique region.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Title VI of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C 1381 et seq.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

Nick LaLota

Nick LaLota
Member of Congress