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

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May 2, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-307
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the St. James Sewer Treatment Plant project in fiscal year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is Suffolk County, located at 100 Veterans Memorial Way, Hauppauge, New York 11788.

The funding would be used to upgrade a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) that is over 50 years old. To effectively implement the project, a design is underway to evaluate treatment alternatives and include an adjacent service area along Lake Avenue in St. James, as the Town of Smithtown recommended. A new WWTP at a higher capacity is proposed. The new plant design has an engineering design report under review by NYSDEC with contract bidding and SEQRA documents being prepared.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the existing treatment plant is reaching the end of its design life and in its existing condition has no excess capacity to accommodate Lake Avenue in St. James. Upgrading the facility for the 674 units will avoid risk of allowing untreated wastewater to escape from the process tanks. It will also protect from discharge of untreated wastewater to the ground which would pose a health risk as this could contaminate drinking water for the nearby community. Additionally, rehabilitation of the WWTP will allow for the connection of the Lake Avenue area, which will provide an environmental benefit as well as allowing for the realization of regional planning efforts.

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
Member of Congress