



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Joseph A. Griffo

Griffo, Brindisi Write To Feds Regarding Delta Lake Hydropower Project

JOSEPH A. GRIFFO November 3, 2014

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ROME – Assemblyman Anthony Brindisi and Senator Joseph A. Griffo recently wrote a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission expressing concerns about the environmental and economic impact of a proposed hydropower project at the Delta Dam.

The City of Watervliet is proposing to build a \$12 million, 7.4 megawatt hydroelectric plant at the dam, which is now more than a century old. The proposal includes a 9,920 horsepower turbine and a 17,000 foot underground cable extension to the National Grid substation in Rome.

“While we applaud the City of Watervliet for its efforts to enhance and increase its alternate power, the return on its investment in hydropower from this project is minimal and is overwhelmingly outweighed by the potential disruption of this natural resource and the potential loss to the greater Rome economy,” the state lawmakers wrote.

Griffo and Brindisi say their concerns mirror those of the Lake Delta Upland Owners Association, which has previously outlined its objections to FERC. They include the

applicant's intent to make significant changes to an aging structure; the impact on large homes built on Delta Lake; and potential prioritization of water for electricity over water for recreational opportunities at Lake Delta State Park or to support the New York State Fish Hatchery.

The lake and the park, the legislators said, "are essential in both the quality of life of our residents, but also in our area's efforts to attract new residents. It is a linchpin in our efforts as we work to recruit doctors, business leaders and investment in our community."

A copy of the letter is attached.