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THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK



JEFFREY D. KLEIN  
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34<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

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August 19, 2011

Lisa Jackson, Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson:

I am writing in reference to the proposed Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mandate for the construction of a concrete cover over the Hillview Reservoir located in southeast Yonkers, New York. My constituents and I believe that this capital project is not only redundant, but that the ratepayer will end up bearing the brunt of the 1.6 billion dollar cost for this development.

As you know, New York City currently maintains the largest and safest public drinking water system in the world providing safe drinking water for 9 million people daily. Keeping up with its commitment for safer drinking water, New York City is in the process of building the Catskill-Delaware Water Ultraviolet Distinction Facility in Westchester County. This facility will use ultraviolet light to purify water by killing pathogens that cause cryptosporidiosis and other illnesses. Once completed, the site will host the largest ultraviolet disinfection facility in the world.

Although I understand that the construction of a concrete cover over the Hillview Reservoir will theoretically stop pathogens from entering the water system, I do not agree with the EPA's recent findings that there are 3500 cases of cryptosporidiosis per year in New York City. The New York City Department of Environmental Conservation released a recent report detailing that cryptosporidiosis accounts for only 100 cases per year, most of which are not related to drinking water.

I am also concerned that the cost of this capital project potentially increases the average ratepayer's bill by almost 3%. For the past five years, residents in of the district I represent have seen a steady increase in their water bills, most recently with the introduction of digital water meters throughout the city.

I urge the EPA to work with myself and New York City in order to implement a plan that avoids these erroneous costs and works towards the goal of providing clean and affordable drinking water for the millions of New York City residents throughout the five boroughs. I am confident, considering the history of collaboration between New York and the EPA, that we will all find a common sense solution that will achieve all of our goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Klein".

Senator Jeffrey D. Klein  
New York State Senator  
34<sup>th</sup> District (Bronx- Westchester)

JDK:MDG