



THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK

KENNETH P. LAVALLE
SENATOR
1ST SENATE District

CHAIRMAN, MAJORITY CONFERENCE
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MOUNT SINAI, NEW YORK 11766
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August 13, 2015

Ms. Meghan Quinn
United States Army Corps of Engineers
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

Dear Ms. Quinn:

As a representative of the First Senatorial District, I am writing in opposition to the United States Army Corps of Engineers' and the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (US EPA) long-term plan to continue to use the Long Island Sound for the open water disposal of dredge spoil.

The Long Island Sound is an estuary of national significance and is a vital resource for fishing, recreation, and commerce. The water quality of the Long Island Sound has been under threat for decades by inappropriate land use, overdevelopment, pollution caused by the introduction of toxic substances, pathogen contamination, and hypoxia.

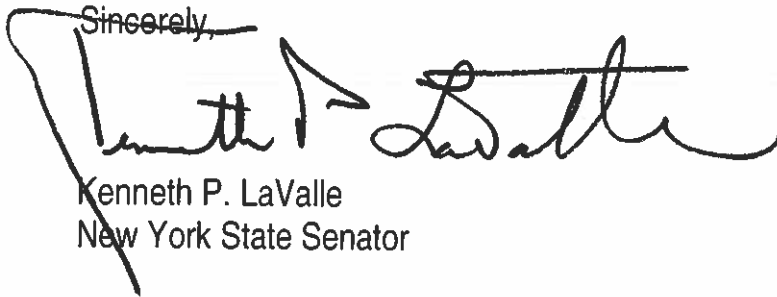
Throughout my tenure, I have worked to put in place policies and programs to protect this vitally important resource. To dump dredge spoil from potentially contaminated sites would do irreparable harm to the Sound. There have been numerous studies that collectively demonstrate pollution, overfishing, and contaminated dredge material disposal have eroded the health of the Long Island Sound over time, thereby reducing its resilience capacity to deal with additional ecological stressors.

I am also disappointed by the US Army Corps of Engineers' failure to adequately notify the public and other interested parties regarding the pending hearings for the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) and the Dredge Material Management Plan (DMMP) as local input should be a part of any plan moving forward.

The DMMP was first requested by the governors of New York and Connecticut in July 2005. A plan of such environmental importance deserves to be scrutinized by stakeholders and adequate time should be allowed. The 32 day public comment period, which ends on September 18, 2015, should be extended to give stakeholders ample time to read the documents, consider the findings, and respond appropriately.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth P. LaValle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "K".

Kenneth P. LaValle
New York State Senator

KPL:va