

VELMANETTE MONTGOMERY
25TH SENATE DISTRICT

ALBANY OFFICE
ROOM 915
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
PHONE: (518) 455-3451
FAX: (518) 426-6854

DISTRICT OFFICE
30 THIRD AVENUE, SUITE 207
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11217
PHONE: (718) 643-6140
FAX: (718) 237-4137

E-MAIL: MONTGOME@NYSENATE.GOV

WEBSITE: MONTGOMERY.NYSENATE.GOV



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January 23, 2020

Basil Seggos
Commissioner
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12207

Re: Reclassification of the Gowanus Canal

Dear Commissioner Seggos,

I am writing in support of the Gowanus Canal Community Advisory Group's (CAG) petition to the New York State Department of Environment Conservation (DEC) to reclassify the waters of the Gowanus Canal, north of Hamilton Avenue, from their current industrial classification of Class-SD to Class-I. This classification will be more consistent with existing and future use of the waterway serving Gowanus and its surrounding communities.

I support the CAG's request that the Gowanus Canal be given a water classification that is more reflective of the ongoing investments to improve the quality of the water, including the federally mandated Superfund cleanup and recent and proposed infrastructure investments. The new classification would be protective of its current recreational uses, which include primary and secondary contact. The canal is home to an abundance of aquatic flora and fauna living in the Canal, including substantial fish populations in a variety of life stages. The reclassification would serve to protect that water life. It would also be more in line with near-term future uses of the Canal.

I urge the DEC to take all appropriate actions to expedite the review of the Gowanus Canal CAG's petition for a reclassification of the Canal.

Sincerely,


Senator Velmanette Montgomery
25th Senate District

cc: Mark Klotz, Director, Division of Water, NYS DEC