

NEWS FROM
Senator Chris Jacobs
REPRESENTING THE 60TH NEW YORK SENATE DISTRICT



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 13, 2019

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**JACOBS EXPRESSES SERIOUS CONCERNS OVER
PROPOSED HAMBURG ASPHALT PLANT**

Calls for comprehensive environmental review

(Erie County, NY) – State Senator Chris Jacobs has serious concerns about the proposal to locate an asphalt plant in the Town of Hamburg.

In a letter to the Town of Hamburg Planning Board, Jacobs wrote “The process of heating, mixing, storing and transporting asphalt all carry great potential for generating emissions with harmful chemicals and materials, not to mention unpleasant odors that will negatively impact the quality of life of residents in close proximity.”

The proposed location of this asphalt plant would be on Camp Road and Elmview Avenue bordering the Village of Hamburg. The proposal has garnered significant opposition from residents in the Town and Village of Hamburg.

“The fact that this locationis in such close proximity to residential neighborhoods, multiple school buildings and athletic fields, day care centers and nursing homes..., demands that any lead agency require the most comprehensive and thorough analysis and review available....,” wrote Jacobs. Jacobs has also sent correspondence to the State Department of Environmental Conservation citing his serious concerns over this proposed project.

“I am in favor of business and development, but certainly not to the detriment of the quality of life and the quality of health of the residents of Hamburg. That is why I am expressing my concerns in writing to the Planning Board early on in this process,” Jacobs concluded.

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**THE SENATE
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September 12, 2019

William Clark, Chairman
Town of Hamburg Planning Board
c/o Hamburg Town Hall
6100 South Park Avenue
Hamburg, New York 14075

Dear Chairman Clark:

As an elected official who represents the Town of Hamburg in the New York State Legislature, I have been following closely, and with great interest and concern, the activities surrounding an application before the Planning Board to site a hot-mix asphalt plant at Camp Road and Elmview Avenue. While I respect the independence of the Planning Board as the lead agency in this matter, I feel compelled to share concerns that I have with the proposal, many of which have been expressed to me by Town of Hamburg residents.

The process of heating, mixing, storing and transporting asphalt all carry great potential for generating emissions with harmful chemicals and materials, not to mention unpleasant odors that will negatively impact the quality of life of residents in close proximity. The release of these hazardous air pollutants can often be difficult to regulate and/or monitor, despite the fact that the industrial process generating them dictates that it should receive close scrutiny.

The human and environmental impact of the dust, gas and odors likely created from such a facility would warrant strict review under any zoning requirement. The fact that the location in question is in such close proximity to residential neighborhoods, multiple school buildings and athletic facilities, daycare centers and nursing homes that care for an even more vulnerable segment of our population, demands that any lead agency require the most comprehensive and thorough analysis and review available under New York's State Environmental Quality Review laws.

I would like to strongly encourage that the Town of Hamburg Planning Board require that a full environmental impact assessment be conducted. Any action by the Planning Board that would allow a project of this nature to begin moving forward without this level of due diligence would be a disservice to Hamburg residents and taxpayers.



Chairman William Clark
September 12, 2019

I appreciate the consideration of the Town of Hamburg Planning Board in this regard and thank you for the service that you provide to your community.

Sincerely,



Chris Jacobs
State Senator
60th District

cc: Abby Snyder, Regional Director
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Region 9