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LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON RURAL RESOURCES



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SENATOR
PAMELA A. HELMING
54TH DISTRICT

March 20, 2019

Roberta Reardon, Commissioner
New York State Department of Labor
State Campus, Building 12
Albany, New York 12240

Re: Hillside Varick Campus

Dear Commissioner Reardon:

As the New York State Senator representing the people of Seneca County and the Finger Lakes area, I write to you today to express my concerns with the decision by the Hillside Family of Agencies to close their Varick, New York facility. It is expected that the facility will be closed completely by December of 2019.

As one of the major employers in the Finger Lakes New York, the Hillside Varick Campus employs over 235 employees. The loss of these jobs is a devastating blow to our local economy and the effect on the staff and employees of the facility cannot be overstated. Many of the employees at this facility have spent their entire careers working there and many had plans to retire from there. The recent decision to close the Varick facility has come as a complete shock to the employees and the community.

Therefore, I am deeply concerned for the wellbeing of the Hillside employees and respectfully request that the Department of Labor work with my office to coordinate services and benefits to these individuals. I am hopeful that in addition to unemployment benefits, that funds will be available for retraining and placement where possible.

As State Senator, I remained committed to doing everything within my power to minimize the negative impact that this decision will have on the employees and their families.

Your immediate attention to our request will be appreciated and I look forward to your response. In the meantime, if I can provide further information or be of assistance in any way with regard to this matter, I hope you will not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pamela Helming".

Pamela A. Helming
Senator, 54th District

Cc: Howard Zemsky, Empire State Development

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