

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE



EDWARD P. ROMAINE
LEGISLATOR 1ST DISTRICT

January 26, 2010

Governor David A. Paterson
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Paterson:

I am writing on behalf of our mutual constituents who reside in the Hashamomuck Cove area of Southold Town on the North Fork of Long Island. Severe erosion has left their homes perilously close to falling into the Long Island Sound.

To prevent the loss of these homes as well as County Road 48 – one of only two east/west roadways on the North Fork – the Army Corps of Engineers has proposed a 905 (b) feasibility study to determine what measures can be taken to reduce erosion and restore the coastline not just in the area of Hashamomuck Cove, but most of Southold Town.

The total cost of the feasibility study is \$4.5 million, which would be split 50/35/15 between the federal government, the state, and Suffolk County respectively. Congressman Timothy Bishop has allocated funding for the federal share of this project and Suffolk County has committed to serving as the local sponsor. The last piece of the puzzle is the State of New York.

On July 1, 2008, Kenneth J. Markussen, P.E., Bureau Director of the DEC Division of Water, sent a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers indicating the state's interest in pursuing the feasibility study if a local sponsor was identified. Suffolk County has committed to serving as the local sponsor, however, DEC has not moved forward. This inaction has stalled the project.

While I understand the state faces a multi-billion dollar deficit, this project is necessary to protect the infrastructure of Suffolk County. The loss of County Road 48 would leave just one east/east road on the North Fork and would likely result in the loss of electricity and gas service to large

areas of the eastern tip of Long Island as these services run along the roadway. Loss of the road would also severely impede traffic to the Village of Greenport, Eastern Long Island Hospital, the Cross Sound Ferry, and two senior citizen care facilities.

I respectfully request that the state honor its commitment and support this worthy project.

Sincerely,



Edward P. Romaine

Suffolk County Legislator, First District

cc: Senator Kenneth P. LaValle
Assemblyman Marc S. Alessi
Peter A Scully, Regional Director, NYSDEC
Michael A. Harrison, Regional Director, Office of Governor Paterson