

KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND
NEW YORK
SENATOR

RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
SUITE 478
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205
202-224-4451

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
ARMED SERVICES
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

August 16, 2021

The Honorable Deanne Criswell
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Administrator Criswell,

I write in support of the application submitted by the Town of Cortlandt for funding from the High Hazard Potential Dam Rehabilitation Grant (HHDR) through the Federal Emergency Management Agency. This funding will allow the Town of Cortlandt to repair the aging Westchester Lake Dam.

The Westchester Lake Dam is located in the northwest portion of the Town of Cortlandt in Westchester County, New York. The land surrounding the lake and the dam was purchased, subdivided, and privately developed with single family homes in the 1950s. The dam itself is privately owned by the Westchester Lake Homeowners Association. Built in the 1920s, the dam is showing increasing signs of seepage. In December of 2020, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation issued a notice of violation for the dam, and the state increased the dam's hazard classification to a "Class C" rating. In New York State, a "Class C" classification means that, in the event of dam failure, damage would be extensive and affect highways, homes, commercial buildings, and other infrastructure, resulting in a substantial loss of human life and widespread substantial economic loss.

The requested funding will allow for the Town of Cortlandt to make essential repairs to the Westchester Lake Dam. Through restoration and rehabilitation of the dam, the Town of Cortlandt would preempt the dangers posed by a dam breach and the potential for an ecological disaster in Westchester County.

I ask that you please give this application your full consideration. If you have any questions, or desire further information, please do not hesitate to contact my staff member, Ryan Kambich, at (202) 224-4451.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Gillibrand

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

8/16/21

cc: Michael P.

to post on this separate webpage L.P.