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December 3, 2010

Honorable David Paterson, Governor
State of New York
Executive Chamber, State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Paterson:

I write regarding the flood events that have befallen the Town of Shandaken in the last two months, the most recent occurring over the past few days. I respectfully request you utilize your authority to declare a State Disaster Emergency to provide the Town and its residents with the opportunity to apply for federal aid to assist in the recovery efforts.

Additionally, concerns have been raised that the frequency and the severity of the flooding has increased due to the New York City Department of Environmental Protection's stream management. I urge you to direct the Department of Environmental Conservation to utilize its authority over the State's waterways to ensure streams in the surrounding communities are being properly maintained.

As you know, over the last few years we have witnessed massive and unprecedented flood events that have resulted in the loss of life and millions of dollars of damage to properties located throughout Upstate New York. The Town of Shandaken has been hit particularly hard, creating an enormous strain on the local government. New York State cannot afford to place our communities at risk and force residents and businesses to exist under a constant state of fear over repetitive floods and other dangerous conditions. I urge you to use all resources at your disposal to assist this community in its recovery efforts while directing the DEC to use its authority to the fullest extent possible to ensure our waterways are being properly managed in order to mitigate any damage from future storms.

As always, I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kevin A. Cahill
Member of Assembly

cc: Peter Iwanowicz, Acting Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation
Cas Holloway, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection