JAMES N. TEDISCO
Assemblyman 112th District

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February 18, 2016

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

As budget negotiations become more intense, we respectfully request your support for the creation of a new CHIPS-style drinking water, storm water and sanitary sewer infrastructure program (S.W.A.P. – Safe Water Action Program) that would provide annual funding to municipalities to swap out old, deteriorating pipes and water mains to better maintain our infrastructure.

Much of the infrastructure under New York State is very old, and in some cases, dates back to the Civil War era. We've seen just this winter alone, how a few breaks can lead to widespread water issues for several communities. In January, a century-old water main break in Troy caused a headache for the Collar City and a ripple-effect for several towns that purchase water from the city who were forced to declare states of emergency to conserve water.

What happened in Troy is just the tip of the iceberg as to the ticking financial time bomb that's under New York State's cities, towns and villages in terms of aging infrastructure. If our local governments had the predictability of annual state funding for infrastructure support they could plan the types of repair and investment projects needed to prevent and mitigate these type of situations.

Replicating the success of the CHIPS program on the state level for our drinking water, storm water and sanitary sewer infrastructure makes sense because an ounce of prevention now to maintain our infrastructure can save tax dollars later by preventing costly breaks causing emergency repairs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Assemblyman Jim Tedisco

Assemblyman Steve McLaughlin

Cc. Speaker Carl E. Heastie
Senate Majority Leader John J. Flanagan

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