



STEVEN F. McLAUGHLIN
Assemblyman 107th District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
Children & Families Committee

COMMITTEES
Economic Development,
Job Creation, Commerce
and Industry
Education
Energy
Social Services

June 3, 2016

Richard S. Hartunian
U.S. Attorney's Office
445 Broadway, Room 218
Albany, NY 12207-2924

Preet Bharara
United States Attorney's Office
1 St. Andrew's Plaza
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mr. Hartunian and Mr. Bharara:

As dedicated public servants, I'm sure we can agree that the health, safety, and well-being of all New Yorkers are preeminent. One of our fundamental roles as leaders of our state is the protection of our residents against wrongdoing as well as investigating and exposing governmental malfeasance if it is suspected. We are the ones who give our people a voice and earn their trust and respect through virtuous action.

The contamination of the Hoosick Falls water supply was devastating for residents. Village residents consumed cancer-causing water for years and some are still confined to using bottled water due to the toxicity of their private wells. People are scared and yearning for answers.

Unfortunately, we have now learned that this catastrophe could've been addressed much sooner if not for the active 'resistance' by the Cuomo Administration and New York State Department of Health (DOH), as reported by Scott Waldman in *Politico*. Through a Freedom of Information Law request, we know that the DOH knowingly ignored federally established requirements for the level of PFOA in the water supply, calling it a matter of 'philosophy' and not just science.



STEVEN F. McLAUGHLIN
Assemblyman 107th District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
Children & Families Committee

COMMITTEES
Economic Development,
Job Creation, Commerce
and Industry
Education
Energy
Social Services

Furthermore, state officials claimed they did not want to alarm residents and waited more than a year to intervene in Hoosick Falls, while actively disputing repeated warnings by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of unsafe levels of PFOA in the local water supply. State officials also initially refused to test residents' private wells for contamination and distributed incorrect telephone numbers to individuals who were desperate for help.

The Cuomo Administration repeatedly claimed that they were following EPA guidelines while, in fact, the administration was proactively ignoring EPA advisories and denying the public information they needed about their water.

The residents I represent believe that the Cuomo Administration and DOH perpetuated and facilitated the consumption of contaminated village water and demonstrated a pathetic level of accountability and transparency in handling the matter. It is for these reasons that I am asking you to open an in-depth investigation into the state's handling of the Hoosick Falls water crisis. Our residents deserve answers and government officials should be held accountable for allowing families to consume cancer-causing water.

The Cuomo Administration's apathy toward the situation is insulting and demonstrates nothing less than incompetency and an extreme disdain for the safety, health, and well-being of thousands of New Yorkers. This goes beyond government inefficiency. This was a premeditated and carefully executed plan for the DOH and Cuomo Administration to wash their hands of the situation and ignore the concerns of residents, hoping they would go away.

I can tell you that the anxiety and confusion of residents hasn't gone away and they deserve answers. Promises of legislative hearings by Assemblymen Steven Englebright and Richard Gottfried turned out to be empty, and Gov. Cuomo's more than 100-day postponement before even visiting Hoosick Falls epitomizes his disconnect with upstate residents and his myopic approach to public safety.

I firmly believe that the Cuomo Administration and DOH actively covered up New York's most serious public health crisis since Love Canal and put residents at risk for many months. This level of apathy from state leaders will not be tolerated and I am asking for your help to bring those to justice who have betrayed the residents of Hoosick Falls.



STEVEN F. McLAUGHLIN
Assemblyman 107th District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
Children & Families Committee

COMMITTEES
Economic Development,
Job Creation, Commerce
and Industry

Education

Energy

Social Services

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and please do not hesitate to reach out to my office with any questions or concerns you may have. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Steve McLaughlin
Member of Assembly
107th District