

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



PETER B. HARCKHAM
SENATOR, 40TH DISTRICT

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April 14, 2021

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
480 Russell
Washington, D.C. 20510

Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney
464 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Support for Town of Lewisboro - STAG grant application

Dear Senators Schumer, Gillibrand and Congressman Maloney:

Thank you for your leadership and steadfastness in providing relief through the American Rescue Plan and various grant opportunities and funding streams for New Yorkers. These supports are invaluable to our smaller communities, one of which I am writing to you about today with an important request. Our mutual constituents in the Town of Lewisboro have an urgent need for improved water quality. Portions of the Town have experienced ongoing water quality issues, specifically related to the Town operated Oakridge Water District which services residents of the Hamlet of Vista. Multiple local efforts have been made to bring this Town owned asset into compliance as it relates to sediment and other contaminants. Recent water quality readings and reports indicate that more aggressive measures must be taken to address the water quality and provide a sustainable long term solution for the residents.

On March 1, 2021, the Town of Lewisboro received a letter from the Westchester County Health Department stating that the Oakridge Water District had exceeded the maximum contamination level for PFOS. The current acceptable limits are 10 parts per trillion and during the first quarter of 2021 the Oakridge Water District measured readings on average of 14.5 parts per trillion. It should be noted that New York State recently revised the Sanitary Code to lower the acceptable level from 70 parts per trillion to 10 parts per trillion, thus imposing a more rigorous standard to protect residents against these potentially harmful contaminants.



SenatorPeteHarckham



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The Oakridge Water District in conjunction with the Town have taken short term measures to become compliant by reducing the number of wells with high PFOS levels used by the system. However, it is clear that a longer term solution is essential to maintaining safe drinking water. Granulated Activated Carbon filters to process the water have been recommended as a method to remove these contaminants at an estimated cost of \$1.6 million. A portion of these funds will be used to expand the water plant to accommodate the size of this new carbon filtration system.

This is an urgent need. Oakridge Water District serves a condominium development, including middle income and affordable units. The district also serves adjacent single family homes, a shopping center and a childcare center. Access to potable drinking water is critical to the well being of our communities and is a right that these Lewisboro residents should be afforded.

I strongly support the application by the Town of Lewisboro for Community Project Funding through the EPA to be applied towards this effort and respectfully request that your offices do the same to ensure the health and prosperity of our mutual constituents. If any of your offices need additional information to support this grant request please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly.

Thank you,



Peter B. Hareckham
State Senator, District 40

PBH/jc

Cc: Peter H. Parsons, Lewisboro Town Supervisor
Christopher Burdick, Assemblyman 93rd District
Kitley Covill, Westchester County Legislator District 2