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MICHAEL F. NOZZOLIO
54TH DISTRICT

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October 2011

Joe Martens, Commissioner
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, New York 12207

Dear Commissioner Martens:

As the New York State Senator representing the Finger Lakes region and its many beautiful lakes, rivers and streams, it was with great concern that I read the Department of Environmental Conservation's Environmental Impact Statement for a proposed Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Storage Facility in Reading, NY. A number of my constituents have expressed concerns that this statement does not address many questions about the environmental, economic, and cultural impact this project will have on Seneca and Cayuga Lakes, as well as the tourist industry that provides hundreds of jobs and brings thousands of visitors to our region.

The proposal by the company Inergy to build this facility here raises a number of economic and safety issues, including the heavy amount of truck traffic it will bring through our local communities, the transport of potentially explosive substances near residential areas and the proximity of the facility itself to the scenic waterfront area in Watkins Glen, a major tourist destination. A more thorough review needs to be given to how the facility will affect local property values and the tax base. Already, many homeowners are selling their property or delaying remodeling plans in anticipation that the project will decrease the value of their homes.

In addition, the DEC's Environmental Impact Statement does not address the potential for LPG and other chemicals stored in the salt mines to seep into Seneca Lake. The proposed facility also includes a brine pond that would be located directly above the local water table. Seneca Lake is the source of fresh drinking water for over 100,000 residents and hundreds of local businesses, farms, wineries, and vineyards. If it were to be in any way contaminated, the effects on the entire region would undoubtedly be severe and devastating.

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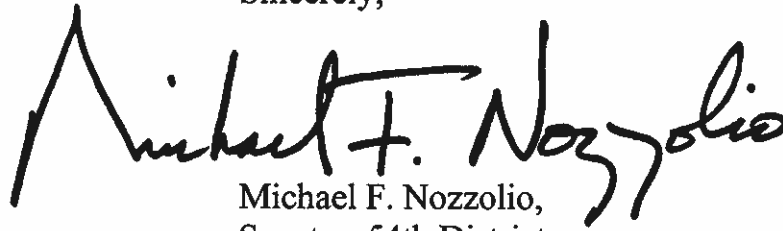


It is vitally important that our New York State government take every precaution necessary to protect our fresh water resources and the communities that rely on them.

Therefore, it is my strong recommendation that the DEC conduct an independent Qualitative and Quantitative Risk Analysis (QRA) to thoroughly and impartially evaluate the risk and impact that this facility would have on the region.

Your immediate attention to this very serious issue is needed and will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael F. Nozzolio". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'M'.

Michael F. Nozzolio,
Senator, 54th District

MN/km