



November 16, 2018

Honorable DuWayne Gregory  
Presiding Officer  
Members of the Suffolk County Legislature  
William H. Rogers Building  
725 Veterans Memorial Highway  
Smithtown NY, 11787

**RE: IR 1991-2018, IR 1992-2018, IR 1993-2018, IR 1994-2018: Suffolk County Coastal Resiliency Initiative (SCCRI) Sewer Project**

Dear Presiding Officer Gregory and Members of the Suffolk Legislature:

I'm writing to convey our Association for a Better Long Island's (ABLI) support for the approval of the resolutions before the Legislature for action which will advance the Suffolk County sewer projects that are part of the \$388 million post-Sandy recovery project known as the Suffolk County Coastal Resiliency Initiative (SCCRI). The fourth SCCRI project, which will connect 648 parcels to the Village of Patchogue facility, does not involve a County sewer system and will not require action by the Legislature to create or extend a Suffolk County sewer district.

Taken together, the SCCRI projects will eliminate nearly 7,000 cesspools and septic systems in four river corridors along Suffolk County's south shore by connecting residential parcels to sewer systems, helping to reverse ongoing degradation of water quality in the Great South Bay, with construction of the projects to be funded entirely with federal and state grant funding. In addition, these historic projects will bolster the regional economy significantly, through the direct economic investment and job creation related to the projects themselves, through ongoing economic growth related to enhanced recreational and tourism opportunities, and in support of local redevelopment efforts. These projects will also allow commercial properties along major thoroughfares to connect to sewers as well. This will not only lead to improved water quality but also enable potential redevelopment to provide housing options to millennials and baby boomers who wish to age in place.

The resolutions before the Legislature would advance the projects in the Carlls River, Connetquot River and Forge River corridors by allowing them to be considered by voters in individual referenda on January 22, 2019, giving voters the ability to decide if the projects should move forward.

In addition to the obvious environmental and economic benefits, the SCCRI projects represent the single largest investment in wastewater infrastructure in Suffolk County in more than 40 years, and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to provide sewer connections to thousands of home that would not

otherwise be connected, including house connections, pump outs and abandonment of existing cesspools, completely funded by state and federal grants.

ABLI urges the Legislature to approve the referenced resolutions as the next step in this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kyle Strober', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kyle Strober  
Executive Director  
Association for a Better Long Island

CC: Steve Bellone, County Executive  
Peter A. Scully, Deputy County Executive