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29TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
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COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3229

July 12, 2009

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Hon. David A. Paterson
State Capitol Building
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Paterson:

Over the past several years the Town of Victor, which is in my Congressional District, has been the focus of an environmental investigation by the NYSDEC regarding volatile chemical solvents introduced into a gravel pit operated by the Syracuse Sand & Gravel Company in the late 1970s. The property, known as Modock Springs, has been visited by members of the NYSDEC numerous times.

The Town of Victor, in conjunction with the Modock Springs Citizen Advisory Committee (MSCAC), has forwarded a proposal to the NYSDEC for their review and consideration. This proposal follows several meetings and discussions with representatives of the MSCAC and the NYSDEC. It allows residents in the investigation area to be fairly compensated through a Value Protection Plan (VPP) while ensuring that the NYSDEC will receive reimbursement from the company deemed responsible for the contamination.

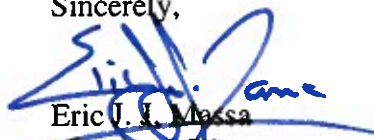
Michael Annechino, Chairman of the MSCAC and Jack Marren, Supervisor for the Town of Victor, have requested a personal meeting with you to discuss this issue, ask for your support of their request of NYSDEC, and for financial support to partially fund the Town's VPP.

Currently, the Task Force is requesting \$250,000 to seed the Town's VPP to help homeowners maintain their financial stakes in property affected by this situation. The current operators of the site have agreed to contribute \$850,000 over 15 years to fully fund the VPP.

It is my hope that the State will recognize this unique opportunity to resolve an issue that has existed for over a decade and needs a creative and well thought-out solution such as this. I am also confident that this plan will enable New York State to be widely recognized as an innovator in this arena, perhaps encouraging other states follow our lead, and use this model to provide solutions to similar environmental situations around the country.

This matter is of the utmost importance to my constituents and I ask that every consideration be given to their request. Your immediate attention to this matter is needed and would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Eric J. J. Massa
Member of Congress