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**SENATOR**  
**BRAD HOYLMAN**  
27TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT  
STATE OF NEW YORK

**DISTRICT OFFICE:**  
322 EIGHTH AVENUE, SUITE 1700  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10001  
PHONE: (212) 633-8052  
FAX: (212) 633-8096

**ALBANY OFFICE:**  
ROOM 413  
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247  
PHONE: (518) 455-2451  
FAX (518) 426-6846

**e-mail:**  
hoylman@nysenate.gov

**website:**  
hoylman.nysenate.gov

June 26, 2015

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
New York State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

As members of the New York State Senate, we urge your administration to publicly support a full cleanup by General Electric of Hudson River PCBs. The presence and long term impact of PCB contaminants that will be left behind when General Electric completes their EPA-mandated cleanup is well documented by the Federal Trustees charged with overseeing the river. Failure to continue the cleanup effort will result in severe economic, environmental, and public health impacts.

The Hudson River - from the foothills of the Adirondacks to Manhattan's Battery - is where diverse populations, geographies, natural resources, and economic opportunities converge. The Hudson possesses abundant scenic and natural resources that provide a commercial and environmental foundation for our communities to thrive. Together, with you, we are investors in this critical resource, which has been referred to as "the landscape that defined America," and to this day serves as the backbone of a \$4.75 billion tourism industry. As elected members of the state legislature, we have designed and supported strategies to revitalize the river and its communities through legislation and budgetary allocations.

No company is better equipped to complete the massive undertaking of removing the toxic PCBs released into the river from General Electric's manufacturing facilities in Hudson Falls and Fort Edward than GE itself. While we are grateful the company has fully met the requirements of Phase 2 dredging, we are deeply concerned by reports from federal, state and independent natural resource scientists indicating that significant PCB "hot spots" will remain after the company's dredging operations shut down later this year.

The health risks posed by this contamination are frightening and well-documented, with one recent study by the New York/New Jersey Contamination Assessment and Reduction Project calling it an "economic ball and chain." If left behind, these Superfund-caliber sediments falling just outside mandated dredging areas will undermine efforts to reduce threats to public health and reestablish damaged habitats.

New York State's future is tied to the restoration of the Hudson River and the return of the once-vibrant commercial fishing industry and lucrative cargo shipping on the Champlain Canal that existed prior to 1976. Committing to a more comprehensive cleanup now will lead to significant environmental and economic recovery of the Hudson River and better the lives of the 15 million Americans who live in proximity to the river within the next generation.

A growing roster of community groups and municipalities has united behind this vision and has called for the removal of residual PCB contamination immediately. We support these efforts and pledge our support to work with you to bring pressure upon General Electric to achieve this important goal. Nothing less will ensure the viability and productivity of the Hudson River for future generations.

Sincerely,

Brenda Hezeman

[Signature]

Jim M. Snow

Liz Kueger

Ruth Hassell-Thompson

[Signature]

[Signature]

Timothy M. Koenig

Nal S. Brast

[Signature]

Anna Knight  
J. Sanborn  
Goly A. Jarvis

Kerwin Park  
R. Alltech

T. L. L. L.  
L. L. L.

John Smith  
W. L. L. L.

Anna  
L. L. L.

Anna  
L. L. L.