



STEVEN ENGLEBRIGHT  
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Suffolk County

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June 9, 2015

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

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We write today, as members of the New York Assembly, to urge your robust and vocal support in addressing a critically important environmental issue facing one of the State's most treasured resources – the cleanup of toxic PCBs in the Hudson River. Specifically, we call on you to ensure that the General Electric Corporation (GE) addresses its responsibility to make the river a safe and usable resource for the millions of New Yorkers who interact with it every day.

The Hudson River is one of the most celebrated and studied geographies in the United States. From New York Harbor to Adirondack Park, the region is recognized as one of the landscapes that defines not only New York, but the country at large – receiving designation as an American Heritage River by the White House, a National Heritage Area by Congress, and an Estuary of National Significance under the Clean Water Act. We take our charge for the stewardship of this important resource seriously, and have worked hard to establish, secure, and promote the region's reputation and environmental quality. Your leadership has been important to this effort and we share with you a strong interest in protecting and enhancing these rich natural resources and scenery that characterize the region and provide a foundation for quality of life and economic development.

However, despite its natural wealth, the Hudson has long been plagued by a pernicious toxic threat – the millions of pounds of PCBs GE dumped into the river decades ago from two of its manufacturing plants. These man-made chemicals are both very dangerous and very durable. Even in relatively small amounts, they have been linked with diseases like cancer, neurological and hormonal disorders, and impaired cognitive development in children, and they are also easily absorbed into the human body. New Yorkers can become exposed to PCBs in the Hudson by touching contaminated sediments, drinking contaminated water, or – for those who are unaware of the longstanding Department of Health advisories – eating contaminated fish.

These potential health harms have also translated into very real economic ones for the entire Hudson Valley. PCB contamination of the Hudson has resulted in: severe restrictions on commercial and recreational fishing; the blocking of a historically important shipping channel, the Champlain Canal, to major commercial traffic; and significant impairment of the recreation and tourism industries.

Because PCBs were engineered for chemical stability, the only viable solution for protecting New Yorkers and making the Hudson a vital, usable river again is to remove and safely dispose of these PCBs. Recognizing this, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ordered GE to dredge contaminated sediments out of the Upper Hudson, which the company began in earnest in 2009. GE is now slated to complete the dredging required under the EPA-cleanup plan and thereafter permanently dismantle its

sediments out of the Upper Hudson, which the company began in earnest in 2009. GE is now slated to complete the dredging required under the EPA-cleanup plan and thereafter permanently dismantle its multi-million dollar cleanup infrastructure. Allowing this infrastructure to be dismantled now, however, would be a tragedy, because the EPA cleanup does not go far enough toward making the Hudson the safe and accessible resource New Yorkers deserve.

The May 25 New York Times editorial drew important public attention to the long- understood fact that the current dredging plan will leave hundreds of acres of contaminated sediments behind and slow the River's recovery by decades or more. Recent studies by the Federal Trustees – the federal and state agencies charged with assessing GE's liability to restore the river and compensate New Yorkers after the current cleanup – confirm this, clearly indicating that under the current dredging scenario residents of New York State will not realize the benefits of a cleaner river within their lifetimes, let alone their children's lifetimes. A recent report by the Hudson's Contamination Assessment and Reduction Project also notes the significant public health impacts from PCBs, and characterizes their presence in the Hudson as an "economic ball and chain."

Simply put, the current cleanup without further action is simply not acceptable, so we call on you to do all that is within your power to direct GE to remedy this situation by dredging additional toxic PCB-hotspots in the river.

General Electric is among the most respected and talented companies in the world. While it has been a valued leader in New York State's business community and done an exceptional job at meeting the legal and technical requirements of the EPA-mandated dredging plan, it must do more now to clean and restore the Hudson River. At the very minimum, it is essential that the dredging infrastructure remain in place while the possibility of additional dredging is being negotiated with the Hudson River Trustees. Ultimately, however, nothing less than removing additional heavily contaminated sediments will be acceptable to the families and communities that seek to realize the full public and economic benefits of a fully restored Hudson River.

GE has the power to change this situation for the better, and your leadership can ensure this happens. It is essential that the public once again benefit from active fisheries and vibrant waterfronts, as well as a commercially productive Champlain Canal. Using the state's full legal power, and the authority and influence of your office, can lead to an effective cleanup and restoration of the Hudson River, bettering the lives of millions of New Yorkers who visit, use, or live along it every day.

Nothing less will protect the legacy of the Hudson River and the people of this great state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven Englebright". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steven" and last name "Englebright" clearly legible.

Steven Englebright, Chairman, Environmental Conservation Committee

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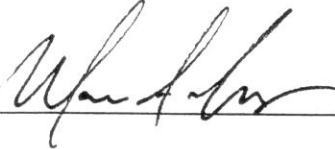
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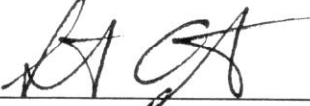
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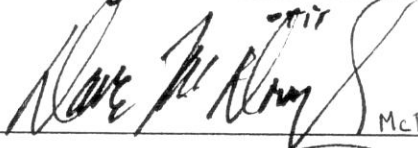
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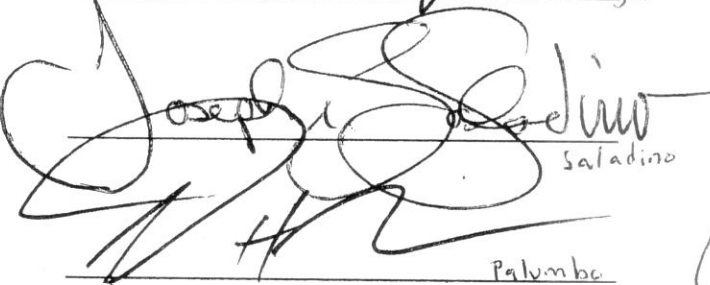
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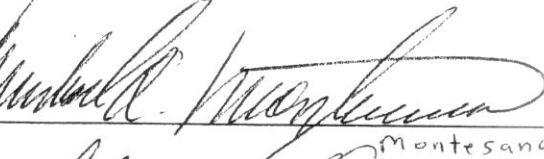
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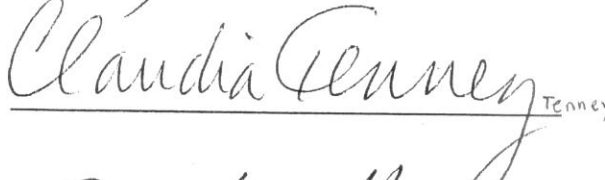
  
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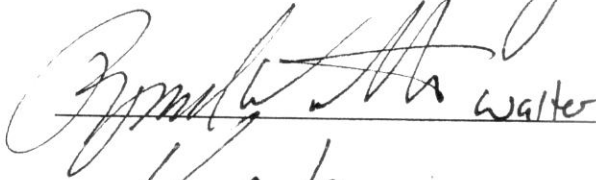
  
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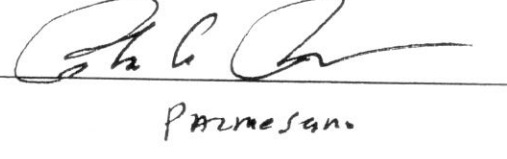
  
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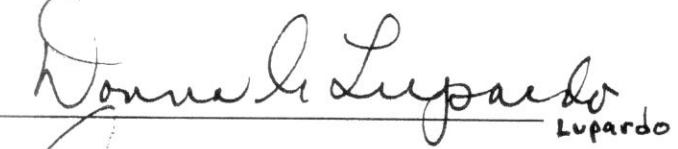
  
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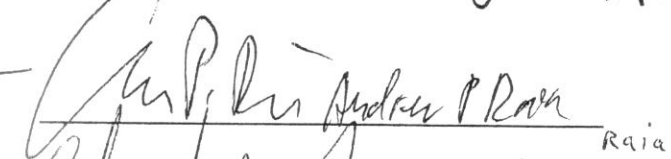
  
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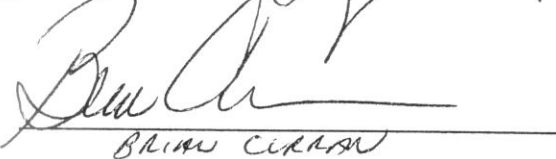
  
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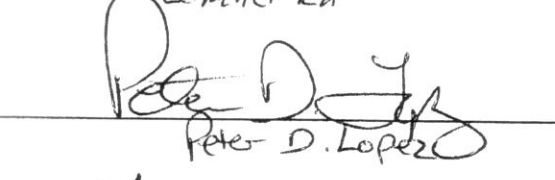
  
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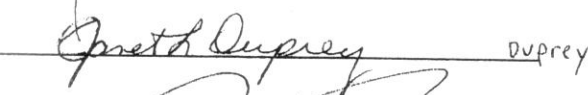
  
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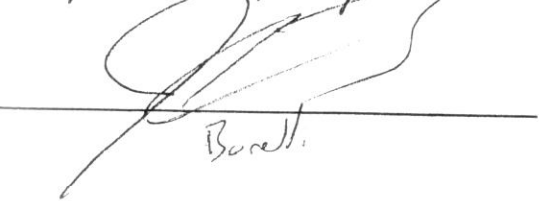
  
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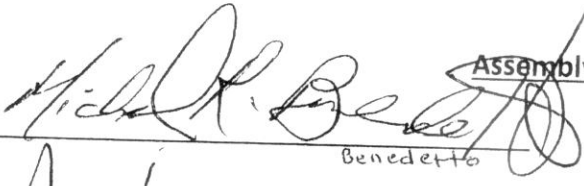
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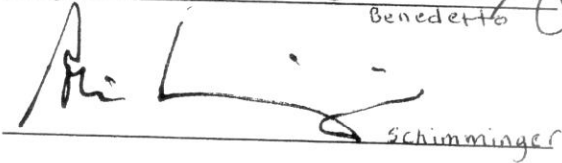
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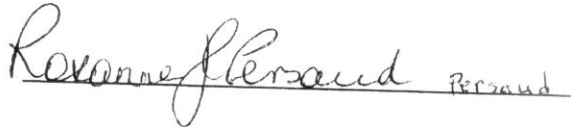
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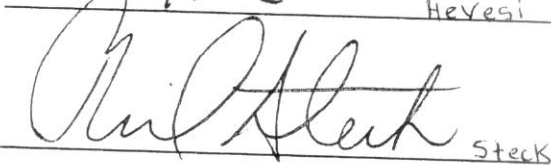
  
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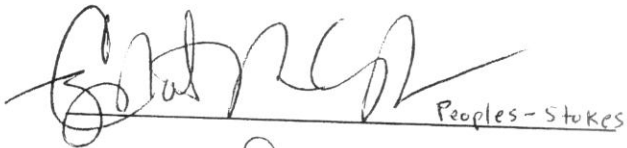
  
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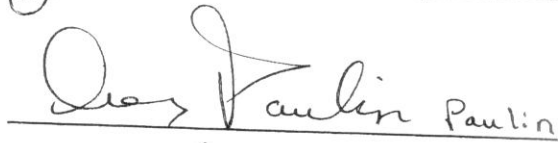
  
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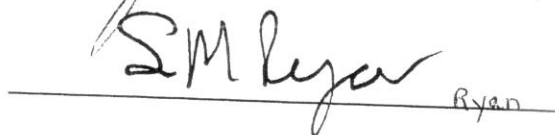
  
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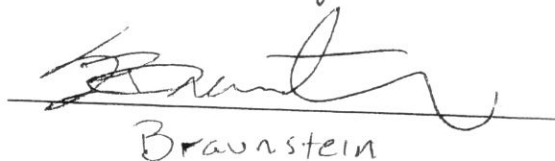
  
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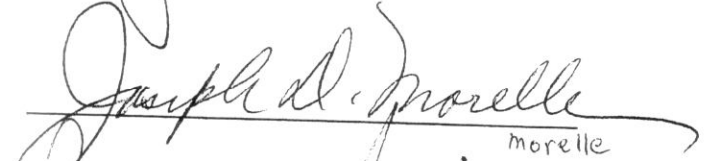
  
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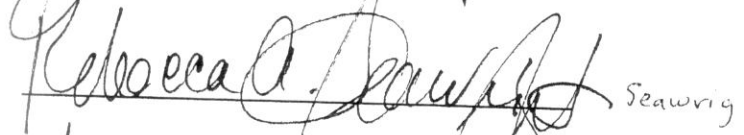
  
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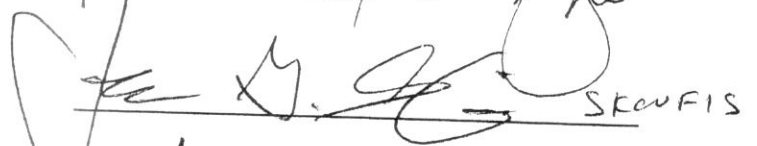
  
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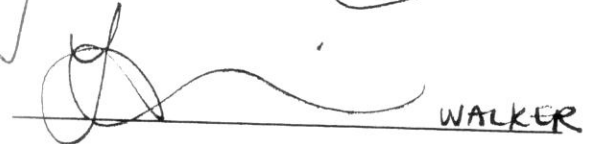
  
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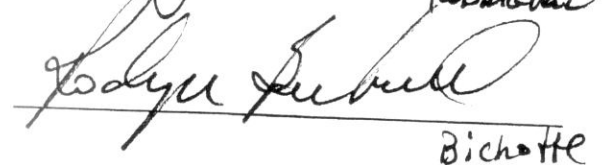
  
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