



ANGELO SANTABARBARA  
Assemblyman 111<sup>th</sup> District

THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

CHAIR  
Subcommittee on Autism  
Spectrum Disorders  
COMMITTEES  
Agriculture  
Energy  
Governmental Employees  
Mental Health  
Racing and Wagering  
Veterans' Affairs

February 22, 2018

Basil Seggos  
Commissioner, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
625 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Commissioner Seggos:

I write to urge immediate research and implementation of ice jam prevention measures on the Mohawk River in the Schenectady, NY area.

The Schenectady area has a long history of ice jams along the Mohawk River affecting generations of families and businesses with flooding that has forced people out of their homes, caused millions of dollars in property damage and has threatened the health and safety of the community. The most recent event this year has again affected residents in the historic Stockade district and restricted the use of property at Schenectady County Community College in the City of Schenectady. The cost to research the options and implement effective ice jam mitigation measures can save millions in future recovery efforts, clean-up costs and infrastructure repairs.

As a civil engineer, I know how 21st century engineering and technology can help solve problems like this. In fact, there are a number of measures that have been used to help mitigate ice jams in other areas of the northeast where similar problems have occurred. I note the project completed in 2004 with the US Army Corps of Engineers that installed a jam-prevention system in a flood-prone section of the Cazenovia Creek, southwest of Buffalo.

The hardships affected residents in the Schenectady area have been forced to live with year after year is something that must be addressed. It is possible to get ahead of the problem; however, it will take our commitment and an investment in infrastructure that is long overdue.

Sincerely,

Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara  
*Representing Albany, Montgomery & Schenectady Counties*