



October 3, 2023

Dear Neighbors,

I've had a great week which included one of my bills signed into law, energizing conversations with Senate leadership about our district environmental priorities, a huge legal win for our environment against crypto-mining pollution, and informative and fun visits in the district.

## Legislative Update

### **Broadband Bill A1260 Signed into Law**

I am thrilled to share that Gov. Hochul signed my bill [A1260](#), co-sponsored by Sen. Rachel May in the Senate, which allows municipalities to bond for broadband and telecommunications infrastructure projects. Access to high-speed internet is not a luxury; it is a modern necessity for New Yorkers to learn, work, access information and resources, and play. However, too many rural communities live without modern internet service, where service is often spotty or non-existent. Many low income communities can be priced out of equitable access. Where the market has failed to provide, municipal broadband networks offer affordable solutions for rural and low-income communities. [Dryden Fiber](#) is a municipal internet service provider operated by the Town of Dryden. This bill will help them finance the expansion of affordable service to a greater area. I was able to celebrate the bill signing yesterday with Dryden officials at a press conference; you can [watch our remarks online](#).



## **NYS Senator Harckham Visits Ithaca to Discuss Environmental Issues**

I was so pleased to be able to host Senator Peter Harckham, chair of the NY Senate Committee on Environmental Conservation, in Ithaca on September 28 as the Senator toured the state to discuss environmental priorities. During our time together, I prioritized two issues of the district: promotion of a circular economy and flood mitigation efforts. Ithaca constituents have been prioritizing waste reduction and developing a circular economy for decades, and we want to be a leading example for how this can be feasibly implemented across New York. With climate change exacerbating the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, flood mitigation measures are essential for protecting communities and infrastructure. Thank you to Diane Cohen, Gretchen Worth, Felix Hiesel and Mike Thorne for sharing their expertise in these critical discussions as we look to craft legislation to address these concerns.



# Anna in the News

## **Crypto-mining Air Permit Denial**

On September 26, a New York State Administrative Law Judge [found again](#) that Greenidge Generation's air permit was inconsistent with New York State's climate law. I was happy to [celebrate this significant victory](#) against the crypto-mining company alongside environmental advocates from Earthjustice, the Sierra Club, and Seneca Lake Guardian during a virtual press conference. This decision sends a powerful message that we must prioritize our commitment to environmental sustainability and climate action over harmful short-term economic gains for private and publicly traded industries. New York State has clear, ambitious goals to combat climate change outlined in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), and we cannot afford to let any corporation operate in a manner that is inconsistent with those goals. I look forward to the Environmental Impact Statement from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation that was required as part of the two-year moratorium on cryptocurrency that I sponsored in 2022 and Gov. Hochul signed into law.





photo credit: Lauren Petracca for Earthjustice

# Around the District

## **“How It’s Made” Manufacturing Expo**

I had a great time at the recent Manufacturing Expo, held at Tompkins Cortland Community College, for our high school youth to meet with local industries and learn about opportunities in manufacturing. Introducing the next generation to manufacturing is important for the economic and workforce development of our area, so thank you to all the businesses and schools who participated. I experienced a VR training module as I tried to put out a simulated fire, saw the equipment of iron workers and tried to tie the knots they use, and learned about the creation of biomedical and surgical textiles.



## Cortland County Farm Tour

Agriculture is also vitally important to our district. I had the opportunity this week with Sen. Lea Webb, Assemblymember Donna Lupardo, and staff from Cornell Cooperative Extension to tour two Cortland County ag-businesses: EZ-Acres Dairy Farm and Hollenbeck's Cider Mill. EZ-Acres has approximately 1,000 cows and produces milk exclusively for Byrne Dairy, supporting another local NY business as they produce finished dairy products. Hollenbeck's Cider Mill has been a favorite location for 90 years, selling apples, cider and delicious pies. Hollenbeck's only recently started growing their own apples, but many orchards lost a significant amount, if not all, of their apple harvest this year due to the late freeze in May. The U.S. Department of Agriculture [designated several counties in NY natural disaster areas](#), including Cortland and Tompkins counties, allowing impacted apple farmers to access emergency assistance and loans.





# Community Resources

## **Community Arts Partnership Grants**

The Community Arts Partnership (CAP) is offering grants for Tompkins County artists, non-profit organizations, and municipalities. This is a valuable opportunity for local artists to receive funding for projects and events! In preparation for the application deadline, program director Robin Schwartz will be hosting free workshops, providing more information about CAP grants, as well as advice to help your grant application rise to the top. Applications for all four grants are due in early January. You can find more info on the grants, deadlines, and workshops on their [grants website](#).

## **Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange**

The Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX) is a fully funded scholarship from the U.S. Department of State and German Bundestag for 250 American high school students to spend an academic year in Germany. The program is currently accepting applications for the 2024-2025 year, and all highly motivated high school students are encouraged to apply. No previous German language experience is needed to apply! Applications are due November 1, 2023. Visit their [website](#) to learn more, explore stories from current and past participants, and begin an application.

## Cortland LGBTQ Center

The Cortland LGBTQ Center is providing a variety of valuable services and training to our community. For more information, visit their [website](#).



**Cortland LGBTQ Center**  
*Division of Family & Children's Counseling Services*  
**Offers LGBTQ Competency Trainings!**

**LGBTQ 101** Basics of LGBTQ terminology, misconceptions, and discrimination

**LGBTQ 102** Understanding additional terminology and how to be an effective ally

**& MORE!** We can design trainings to suit your needs, e.g. working with LGBTQ youth or understanding healthcare disparities

**Trainings are conducted at no cost to agencies.**  
**Please contact [mdoughty@familycs.org](mailto:mdoughty@familycs.org) to schedule.**

 **Family & Children's**  
COUNSELING SERVICES  
*Cultivating resilience*

 **the Center**

The Cortland Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Center

## Blood Donations Needed

The Red Cross has announced a [National Blood Shortage](#) after experiencing a 25% drop in blood donations. If you are able, I encourage you to donate blood! Blood shortages impact children with cancer, patients undergoing surgery, people living with sickle cell disease, those with traumatic injuries and others. [Find a blood drive](#) and sign up to give blood to ensure patients get needed care.



# ALERT: BLOOD SHORTAGE

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In good health,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anna Kelles".

Anna Kelles, Ph.D.

Assemblymember, 125th A.D.

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