

FILE



NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

October 29, 2014

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
c/o Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Re: City of Watervliet / Delta Lake Hydropower Application

Dear Secretary Bose,

Please accept this letter on behalf of our constituents of Oneida County, New York, who are troubled by the recent application by the City of Watervliet, New York, regarding permit applications for hydropower generation at the Delta Dam.

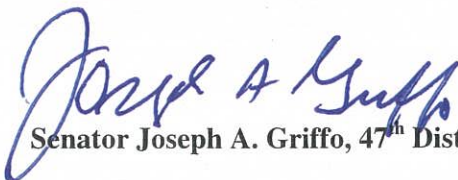
Members of the Lake Delta Upland Owners Association's have shared their concerns regarding the future of Delta Lake with state and federal officials. We share their concerns, and ask that this process includes a careful review of both these concerns as well as the potential environmental and economic impact that this project would have on the greater Rome area. We request that the commission examine Watervliet's application critically and ensure that the integrity of the dam and the lake are preserved.


Delta Lake, in addition to being a key regional natural asset both recreationally and as a feeder for the Erie Canal water supply, is also the location of the Delta Lake State Park, which attracts in excess of 100,000 visitors annually, including tens of thousands who travel from across the county to stay in the park's campground. These visitors are a key component of our regional tourism industry, and essential to the ongoing health and viability of our economy. Likewise, the lake and the park are also key four-season recreational sites. They are essential in both the quality of life of our residents but also in our area's efforts to attract new residents. It is a linchpin in our efforts as we work to recruit doctors, business leaders and investment in our community.

While we applaud the City of Watervliet for its efforts to enhance and increase its alternative power, the return on its investment in hydropower from this project is minimal and is overwhelmingly outweighed by the potential disruption of this natural resource and the potential loss to the greater Rome economy.

We welcome an opportunity to meet with the commission or provide you with additional documentation. Please do not hesitate to contact our offices if we can answer any questions you may have relative to this proposed project and address the regional importance of the lake to its home community.

Sincerely,


Senator Joseph A. Griffo, 47th District


Assemblymember Anthony J. Brindisi, 119th District

cc: Rep. Richard L. Hanna, R-22, NY
Dan McAuliffe, Lake Delta Upland Owners Association