



NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

September 6, 2017

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor
Executive Chamber
Albany, New York 12224

**RE: VILLAGE OF SIDNEY, DELAWARE COUNTY
FLOOD BUYOUT - 2011**

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We write on behalf of our mutual constituents in the village of Sidney, New York, concerning a flood buy-out that is being administered by the state and that results from the 2011 hurricane.

Six years later, due to federal and state administrative logjams and lack of communication, the buy-out has not been completed and there is no solution in sight. People are in despair.

As an executive who believes in achieving results for people, you must be concerned by the inability of federal and state government agencies to bring this issue to closure. We are. Our constituents in Sidney are.

Concisely stated, the buy-out is 100 percent funded by HUD but a FEMA project. The federal agencies have differing standards, and that has resulted in duplication and gridlock. In addition, New York's agencies, the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) and the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery, are administering the funds – in accordance with their protocols. The result is this: the buy-out for Sidney residents has been stalled and delayed due to bureaucratic duplication and inconsistent rules. People are living in damaged homes six years later. Delaware County officials helping the village have advised me that, simply stated, the state and federal agencies are not working together to bring this issue to a resolution.


As a result, Sidney residents involved in the buy-out have been asked to submit the same documentation and information multiple times. They are discouraged, angry and disappointed by the inability of government to solve a problem and achieve a solution.


We request that you appoint a task force or leader to coordinate the state's efforts on this project, cut unnecessary red tape, and bring it to an expeditious conclusion for our mutual constituents. The issue is critical.

We do not write to affix blame. We know that no one is deliberately trying to stall the completion of the program. We just want the issue resolved quickly to the benefit of our taxpayers. It will take your leadership to do so.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,


JAMES L. SEWARD
State Senator – 51st District


CLIFF CROUCH
*Member of Assembly
122nd Assembly District*

Cc: Ms. Melissa DeRosa, Secretary to the Governor
Mr. Robert Mujica, Director of the Division of Budget
Commissioner Parrino, DHSES

JLS:ddjt