



ANGELO SANTABARBARA
Assemblyman 111th 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

Kenneth Wells
Chief of Public Affairs, United States Army Corps of Engineers
26 Federal Plaza, Room 2113
New York, NY 10278

Dear Mr. Wells:

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 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation that installed an ice 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angelo Santabarbara', written in a cursive style.

Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara
Representing Albany, Montgomery & Schenectady Counties