MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT
Flexible Financing for Clean Water Infrastructure

A. 6316 – Otis
S. 4520 – Harckham

An ACT to amend the public authorities law, in relation to the water pollution control revolving fund

JUSTIFICATION

Aging and failing sewage infrastructure results in the discharge of raw sewage into local waterways—jeopardizing human health, closing beaches, harming fish and wildlife, and damaging local economies. While repairing and replacing New York’s wastewater infrastructure is absolutely necessary, it is also very costly—estimated at $36 billion over twenty years.

The New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) provides zero and low interest loans to local governments to upgrade wastewater infrastructure through the State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund, also known as the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). Even with this funding available, many rural and other financially disadvantaged communities continue to struggle to bridge the funding gap between the cost of the project and the amount ratepayers can actually afford.

This legislation would allow the EFC to offer forty-year financing through the CWSRF (up from the current term cap of thirty years), just as the EFC already does through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) for drinking water projects. Extending the term cap for the CWSRF will close financial gaps and provide relief to taxpayers when updating our state’s wastewater infrastructure—which results in clean water, a healthy environment, job creation, and enhanced community quality of life.