



Monroe County Legislature

VINCENT ESPOSITO

LEGISLATOR - DISTRICT 16

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No. <u>080241</u>
Not to be removed from the Office of the Legislature Of Monroe County
Committee Assignment
Memorializing Referral -L

August 11, 2008

To the Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
407 County Office Building
39 West Main Street
Rochester, New York 14614

Re: Memorializing the U.S. Congress to Pass and President George W. Bush to Sign into Law S.2844, the Beach Protection Act.

Honorable Legislators:

In August 2008, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) released a comprehensive report, ranking our local beaches among the third-highest in all of New York State and 50th nationally in the frequency in which bacterial counts exceeded federal regulations in 2007 alone. Over a period of 105 days, waters at Durand Eastman Beach were tested daily, finding that bacteria levels exceeded federal standards at a 16% exceedance rate. Ontario Beach, also known as "Charlotte Beach", was tested on a biweekly basis and reported a 37% exceedance rate.

For years, pollution, invasive species, eutrophication, and rising bacteria levels have continued to threaten Lake Ontario. In July 2006, the waters at Durand Eastman Beach were tested by a group of graduate students after a rainfall event, and found average *E. coli* levels of 650 colonies per milliliter. The EPA recommends healthy levels of 235 colonies per milliliter.

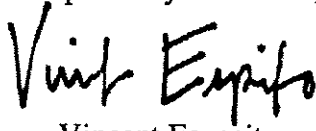
However, our recurring water quality problems are reversible and more importantly, preventable. With comprehensive policies and standards, governments are able to do their part to prevent the further degradation of this invaluable natural resource. Currently before the U.S. Congress is bill S.2844, also known as the Beach Protection Act of 2008. Co-sponsored by both New York Senators Hilary Rodham Clinton and Chuck Schumer, this proposed legislation would allow for the inclusion of more activities to be covered by federal grants under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, facilitating the development



and implementation of programs for source tracking, sanitary surveys, and other preventative efforts to help identify sources of pollution and other contaminants.

This proposed legislation is paramount to ensure that Lake Ontario, one of our most vital resources, stays viable, usable, and potable for future generations. Therefore, we urge you to join us in memorializing the U.S. Congress to pass, and President George W. Bush to sign into law S.2844, the Beach Protection Act of 2008.

Respectfully submitted,



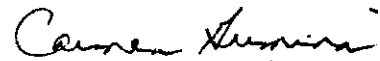
Vincent Esposito
Legislator – District 16



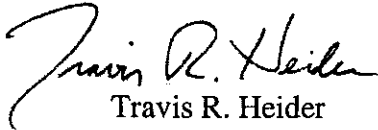
Harry B. Bronson
Democratic Minority Leader



Richard A. Beebe
Legislator – District 6



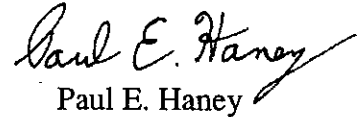
Carmen F. Gumina
Legislator – District 8



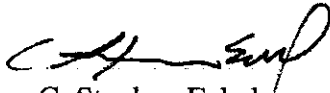
Travis R. Heider
Legislator - District 14



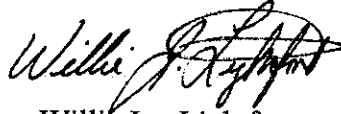
Ted O'Brien
Legislator – District 17



Paul E. Haney
Legislator – District 23



C. Stephen Eckel
Legislator - District 26



Willie Joe Lightfoot
Legislator – District 27