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TOWN of HALFMOON

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October 4, 2017

Martin Brand Deputy Commissioner

Julie Tighe
Assistant Commissioner and
Chief of Staff

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation 625 Broadway Albany, New York 12233-1010

RE: Proposed Colonie Landfill Expansion

Dear Mr. Brand and Ms. Tighe:

I am writing this letter to thank you again for meeting with myself, Supervisor Lawler and our representatives to discuss both our personal concerns regarding the expansion of the landfill and the concerns of our residents. I appreciate your willingness to sit down and discuss what I see as very substantial concerns about both the expansion itself and the review process being utilized to determine the impacts of the expansion.

As we discussed when we met, I remain concerned about the existing issues associated with the landfill that have yet to be addressed. These issues affect the residents or our community daily, not to mention the effect of expanding an already existing problem. The current operators have proven unsuccessful at preventing the discharge of odors. Residents in both Waterford and Halfmoon are particularly affected by the noxious odors that emanate from the landfill. They are forced to keep their windows shut during the warm weather in an effort to lessen the impact of the odor in their homes. Further, those same areas along the Mohawk in both towns have had their scenic and historical value degraded by the presence of the landfill and its impact on the view shed. The current proposal only increases that blight.

As you know, the landfill is in an environmentally sensitive area on the shores of the Mohawk River. Under the current regulations, the landfill could not be approved at that location. It is clear that the current proposal, due to massive scope of the proposed expansion, should be regulated pursuant to the current regulations for creating a landfill. The proposal virtually triples the size of the existing facility. I remain concerned about the proposed expansion being constructed on an area of alluvial deposits associated with the Mohawk River. As we discussed, these deposits will affect the stability of the facility. Nothing set forth in the current application adequately addresses the very valid concerns regarding these deposits and their impact.

I look forward to working together to address the concerns detailed herein. I am hopeful that the Department will provide an opportunity for the issues included herein and the other issues that we discussed at a full evidentiary hearing. Again, thank you for your time and attention regarding this matter.

Keyin J. Tollisen Town Supervisor