

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 11, 2007

Colonel Aniello L. Tortora
Commander and District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New York District
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278-0090

Dear Colonel Tortora,


We are writing you to express our deep concern about the status of dredging permits on the East End of Long Island. Resolving this important issue is critical to several ongoing projects and maintaining our region's waterways.

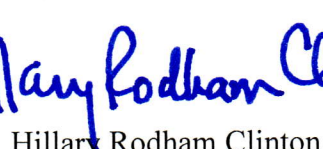
As you may be aware, a large number of 10-year permits held by the Suffolk County Department of Public Works expired last year. Due to the high volume of permits, and also due to new requirements, the 2006-07 dredging season was almost entirely lost for dozens of new and ongoing projects. It has recently come to our attention that there are still a number of roadblocks which are now threatening the 2007-08 dredging season. In light of new fisheries protections, it is possible that for many projects the dredging window will expire in mid-January 2008, not March 31, 2008. Since every day is so crucial, it is important for the permits to be issued and for the work be carried out without delay.


Therefore, we are requesting that the Army Corps of Engineers, as the lead permitting agency, provide in writing a list of actions that need to be completed for work to proceed by Monday, July 16, 2007. We would then request that Corps officials participate in a conference call to occur no later than Monday, July 23, 2007, with all agencies involved in the permitting process, as well as all stakeholders, including Town officials, to work together toward a mutually satisfactory resolution of this issue.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please work with Matt Cohen of Senator Schumer's office at (631) 753-0978, Lauren Montes of Senator Clinton's office at (631) 249-2825 and Jon Schneider of Congressman Bishop's office at (631) 696-6500 to coordinate.

Sincerely,


Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate


Hillary Rodham Clinton
United States Senate


Tim Bishop
U.S. House of Representatives