



CITY OF NEW YORK  
PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
BOROUGH OF STATEN ISLAND

JAMES S. ODDO  
PRESIDENT

BOROUGH HALL  
STATEN ISLAND, NY 10301

March 28, 2014

Mr. Patrick Foye  
Executive Director  
Port Authority of New York & New Jersey  
225 Park Avenue South  
New York, NY 10003

Dear Executive Director Foye: *Pat*

I hope this letter finds you well.

I am writing because I believe I have found an excellent candidate for the Hudson-Raritan Estuary Resource Program (HRERP).

In February, 2014, during his announcement that the Port Authority had approved a \$30 million investment in HRERP, Governor Cuomo said that this fund “aims to balance Port Authority commercial and port development needs with ecological enhancements and protection of the coastal edge...”

The project I have in mind will provide both ecological enhancement and shoreline protection along Staten Island’s South Shore – an area hit extremely hard by Superstorm Sandy.

It is called the Living Breakwater, a project designed by SCAPE Landscape Architects. It involves protective breakwaters and interior tidal flats that can dissipate wave energy and slow water, while rebuilding sustainable oyster populations within the ecosystem.

It will focus specifically on the South Shore of Staten Island, and will protect communities including areas of Tottenville, Lemon Creek, Crescent Beach, and Great Kills Harbor, as well as ecologically sensitive areas such as Mount Loretto. I have enclosed a map for your convenience.

The proposal by SCAPE and their partners for a living breakwater would reduce the destructive force of waves, preventing erosion of the beaches and bluffs that protect the community from storms. This reef-like structure will re-vitalize coastal ecologies as well as the commercial and recreational businesses that depend on healthy fisheries for their livelihood.

The SCAPE team has also made the community a critical element in the program, in particular by proposing a way to reconnect the shoreline's restoration to Staten Island's maritime heritage and in particular the lives of high school students.

The SCAPE project is creative, innovative, and responsible and I believe it is a good fit for the HRERP program. I urge you to consider supporting this important initiative.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James S. Oddo". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a small dot above the "i".

James S. Oddo

JO:fs