## WESTCHESTER COUNTY

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Legislator, 2nd District

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April 15, 2021

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer 322 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand 480 Russell Washington, DC 20510

Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney 464 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for Town of Lewisboro – STAG grant application

Dear Senators Schumer and Gillibrand and Congressman Maloney,

Thank you for your extraordinary efforts to provide relief to all New Yorkers in the form of the American Rescue Act. As a County Legislator who represents a number of small communities in Northern Westchester, I am grateful to see that there are a variety of funding sources available to these municipalities.

On March 1,2021, the Town of Lewisboro received a letter from the Westchester County Health Department stating that the town-owned Oakridge Water District had exceeded the maximum contamination level for PFOS of 10 parts per trillion during the first quarter of 2021 by averaging 14.5 parts per trillion. New York State recently revised its Sanitary Code to lower the acceptable level from 70 parts per trillion to a new standard of 10 parts per trillion, thereby mandating filtration of any water supply exceeding that level.

The Water District has taken short term measures to come into compliance by reducing the number of wells with high PFOS levels, but a more permanent solution to this health crisis - in the form of Granulated Activated Carbon filters to process the water – is urgently needed. The cost for this vital project is estimated at \$1.6 million: this significant sum includes the expansion of the water plant to accommodate the size of this new carbon filtration system.

This is a dire and pressing need. Oakridge Water District serves many condominiums, including middle income and affordable units. The district also serves single family homes, a shopping center, and a childcare center. Clean healthy water is critical and important to the well-being of Lewisboro residents.

I strongly support the application by the Town of Lewisboro for Community Project Funding in the form of the State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) to be applied towards this effort.

Very truly yours,

Kitley S. Covill