



JO ANNE SIMON  
Assemblymember 52<sup>nd</sup> District

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January 15, 2020

Mark Klotz, Director  
Division of Water, NYS DEC  
625 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12233

Re: Reclassification of the Gowanus Canal

Dear Mr. Klotz,

I write to you to express my support for the petition submitted to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) from the Gowanus Canal Superfund Community Advisory Group (CAG) to reclassify the waters of the Gowanus Canal in Kings County, north of Hamilton Avenue, from its current industrial classification of Class-SD to Class-I. In September 2019, the CAG voted unanimously on a resolution to submit a formal Reclassification Petition to DEC.

I strongly support improved water quality standards, setting forth more stringent requirements for maximum allowable levels of chemical pollutants in the Gowanus Canal to protect and enhance the human and environmental health of the neighborhood, and the surrounding areas, which have long suffered from the impacts of this highly polluted site.

Further, the existing classification does not correspond to the existing uses of the Canal, which include primary contact recreation and habitat provision for a diverse range of aquatic flora and fauna. The existing classification also does not correspond to the best near-term future use of the Canal, which will see substantial water quality improvements through the Superfund Clean-up, as well as increased access and residential population growth at the waterfront through the City's rezoning process.

The Gowanus Canal is a vital asset to the community. In order to ensure the long-term health of the Canal and the community, regulations for improved water quality must be in place to protect and enforce non-compliance. I strongly urge you to take these matters seriously and prioritize the reclassification of the Gowanus Canal.

Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Jo Anne Simon  
Member of Assembly