



OFFICE OF
RICHARD J. GERBOUNKA
MAYOR

City of Linden

Union County, New Jersey

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October 15, 2013

Congressman Payne Jr.
920 Broad Street
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Dear Congressman Payne Jr.:

I am writing to inform you that the City of Linden is not asking for an immediate assessment of flood impacts as part of the Tidal Rahway River Study nor do I support that request.

Three councilpersons are acting solely on their own and are confusing inland flooding with ocean surge better known as tidal flooding.

I realize from Linden's experience during Superstorm Sandy that a tidal surge from the Arthur Kill is devastating and will cover any land up to a certain elevation. Therefore, I support the D.E.P.'s explanation and logic regarding the Rahway Arch Project. I also have full confidence in the D.E.P. and their untiring efforts to protect our environment. If there was even a small chance that the NY/NJ Bay Keeper or Edison Wetlands Association was correct in their assessment I know the D.E.P. would support that study.

I ask you not to be misled by a small group of individuals who feel they know more about environmental contamination and flooding than our State Organization whose responsibility it is to oversee our environmental laws and regulations.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Gerbounka
Mayor

cc: Commissioner Bob Martin, DEP
Mayor Dan Reiman, Carteret
Mark Smith, Soil Safe, Inc.

RJG/cg

Subj: **Clarification about Soil Safe/Rahway Arch Project and the City of Linden and Action Alert**
 Date: 10/7/2013 11:42:08 A.M. Eastern Standard Time
 From: mail@nynjbaykeeper.org
 To: maritimellc@aol.com



Clarification about Soil Safe/Rahway Arch Project and the City of Linden and Action Alert

In our October Newsletter, we wrote that "the City of Linden is asking Congressman Payne to request that the Army Corps of Engineers conduct an immediate assessment of flood impacts as part of the tidal Rahway River Study funded by the Sandy Supplemental." After publication, Mayor Gerbounka of Linden called to inform us that we are incorrect and that he will not allow the City to ask the Army Corps to study the project's potential to worsen flooding in Linden. However, some members of the Linden City Council (Councilwoman Cosby-Hurling, Councilwoman Yamakitas and Councilman Sadowski) did, in fact, send a letter to Congressman Payne asking him to request that the Corps does the flood impact study. We apologize for implying that Mayor Gerbounka also supported the letter to Congressman Payne.

While talking to Mayor Gerbounka, we explained that the Rahway Arch project is located in a flood plain and will displace up to 800 million gallons of flood water to other communities on the Rahway River but he said that he would "trust the DEP" on this issue. When we said that the DEP has not done a flood impact analysis, he said that he would still "trust" them because of their past help with the City's landfill.

If you live in Linden or another community on the Rahway River and you are concerned that the Soil Safe/Rahway Arch plan to fill in flood plain may worsen flooding in your community, you may want to contact your Member of Congress and say: "Please request that the Army Corps of Engineers conduct an immediate assessment of flood impacts as part of the tidal Rahway River Study funded by the Sandy Supplemental." We also recommend you ask your state legislators and city council to ask Governor Christie to hold off on issuing final permits to Rahway Arch until the Corps completes the study.

For more information, visit: <http://bit.ly/1aU5xQ6>



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Wednesday, October 09, 2013 AOL: MARITIME LLC