

MODEL STAKEHOLDER LETTER IN SUPPORT OF EPA'S LOWER ESOPUS DECISION  
(Just a suggested guide; please modify to express what you personally would like to say)

[DATE]

Sheri Jewhurst  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2  
290 Broadway  
New York, NY 10007

**Re: Comments in Support of EPA's Decision to List the Lower Esopus Creek as Impaired**

Dear Ms. Jewhurst:

[STAKEHOLDER/MUNICIPALITY/CITIZEN/ORGANIZATION] appreciates being afforded the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) decision to list the Lower Esopus Creek as an impaired waterbody, partially disapproving the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) 2012 List of Impaired Waters. [STAKEHOLDER] commends EPA for its focus on the protection and health of the Lower Esopus Creek and supports its decision requiring DEC to place the Creek on that list, upholding the requirements of the Clean Water Act intended to guarantee swimmable, fishable and drinkable water for all communities.

As a [COMMUNITY/CITIZEN/ORGANIZATION] that depends on a healthy Lower Esopus, [STAKEHOLDER] greatly appreciates EPA's formal recognition of the Lower Esopus Creek's impairment. I/We fully support EPA's conclusion, reached after evaluating all available scientific data and information, including submissions provided by Riverkeeper. It is undeniable that the Lower Esopus Creek is impaired as a result of New York City Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) continued discharges of highly turbid water from the Ashokan Reservoir and that DEC's most recent draft Consent Order does not address these turbid discharges or the impairment they are causing. Instead, both the draft consent order and the interim release protocol negotiated by DEC and DEP will allow the City to continue massive turbid discharges in volumes and duration similar to those we have seen over the past two years, with no end date. Given the draft consent order's failure to provide for any pollution control measures, it is my/our hope that EPA's determination will require DEC to work with DEP to put such control measures in place so this significant source of pollution will finally be addressed.

[OUR STAKEHOLDERS (RESIDENTS/MEMBERS/INDIVIDUALS/ETC...)] are the ones who must live with the Creek's obvious impairment when the City's discharges are on-going. [FIRST-HAND ACCOUNT(S) OF THE IMPACTS THE IMPAIRMENT OF THE LOWER ESOPUS HAS HAD ON STAKEHOLDER]. The first step to putting the Lower Esopus on a path towards restoration begins with EPA's formal recognition of its impairment, which I/we welcome and applaud.

Thank you for consideration of my/our comments. I/We look forward to EPA and DEC working together to restore the Lower Esopus Creek to the precious natural and community resource it has been in the past.

Sincerely,