

December 19, 2016

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
Executive Chamber
New York State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Re: Water infrastructure and Source Water Protection funding in the SFY2017-2018 NYS budget

Dear Governor Cuomo:

As small business owners in the Hudson River Valley that rely on high quality water, we write to urge you to continue recent progress on investing in clean water infrastructure, and to renew the state's Drinking Source Water Protection Program.

We support the call for \$800 million in annual funding for the New York State Water Infrastructure Improvement Act, which since its inception in 2015 has catalyzed significant needed investment in community drinking water and sewer systems in the Hudson River Watershed and statewide. These systems, and the clean water they provide, are critical to the success of our businesses, communities and the Hudson Valley's \$5.2 billion tourism economy.

While the investments committed to date will significantly improve water quality at many locations, the documented need for sewer improvements alone in Hudson River Watershed counties has been estimated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at \$2.5 billion. Please continue the successful program by boosting the annual funding to assist communities in making critical upgrades to the water infrastructure on which our businesses rely.

We also support a new Drinking Source Water Protection Program – a parallel investment in “natural infrastructure” – to conduct comprehensive assessments and apply watershed protection principles to ensure the quality of our public drinking water supplies. Our businesses rely on high quality public water supplies to produce our products, or healthy watersheds for safe recreation.

Water Infrastructure and Drinking Source Water Protection are fundamental elements of a proactive strategy for providing high quality water for drinking, beverage and food making, swimming, boating, fishing and many other pursuits that make our state a great place to live and do business.

We appreciate your leadership on clean water issues, and hope you will continue to build a legacy as a national leader with these investments in the next budget.

Sincerely,

2 Way Brewing Company
Michael O'Herron, President
Beacon, NY

Bread Alone Bakery
Nels Leader, Vice President
Lake Katrine, NY

The Brooklyn Brewery
Steve Hindy, Founder and Chairman
Brooklyn, NY

C.H. Evans Brewing Company
Albany Pump Station
Neil Evans, Owner
Albany, NY

Hudson River Cruises and Events
Robert Scribner, President
Kingston, NY

Hudson River Cruises Inc.
Guy Falkenheimer, Captain
Hudson, NY

Hudson River Expeditions
Brian Grahn, Owner
Cold Spring and Peekskill, NY

Hudson Valley Brewery
John-Anthony Gargiulo, Founder/President
Beacon, NY

I Paddle New York
Gail Porter, Owner
Saugerties, NY

Industrial Arts Brewing Co.
Jeff O'Neil, Founder & Proprietor
Garnerville, NY

Keegan Ales
Tommy Keegan, Owner
Kingston, NY

Mill House Brewing Co.
Jeremy Speck, General Manager
Poughkeepsie, NY

Newburgh Brewing Company
Paul Halayko, President and Co-Owner
Newburgh, NY

North River Hops & Brewing
Brandin and Nicki Stabell, Owners
Wappingers Falls, NY

Peekskill Brewery
Keith Berardi, Owner
Peekskill, NY

Storm King Adventure Tours
Kris Seiz, Owner
Cornwall-On-Hudson, NY

Suarez Family Brewery
Taylor Cocalis, Co-Founder
Livingston, NY

Town Tinker Tube Rental
(Mountain Creek Recreation Inc.)
Harry G. Jameson III, President
Phoenicia, NY

Trinity Cruise Company, LLC
Capt. Mary Pat Driscoll, Owner & Captain
Peekskill, NY