**THE CAYUGA SALT MINE RESOLUTION ON THE AGENDA PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO CEASE PASSING OUR COMMUNITY’S ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS TO FUTURE GENERATIONS TO RESOLVE: MITIGATING THE CAYUGA SALT MINE’S POTENTIAL NEGATIVE IMPACTS ON CAYUGA LAKE**

During the past 50 years, governing bodies have almost always, when confronted with an environmental or public health problem, concluded that they are too complex and too expensive to address in the short-term. Listed below are a few examples.

In the 1980s James Hansen of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies reported in Science Magazine and other publications that he was ninety-nine percent certain the earth was warmer then than at any time in the history of instrumental measurements, there was a clear cause and effect relationship with the greenhouse effect, and lastly that due to global warming, the likelihood of freak weather was steadily increasing. Nearly 40 years later, as Chair of the TC Environmental Management Council, I frequently attended local municipal board planning board meetings to promote their development of a climate action plan. Yet I was unable to generate any response to offers of EMC support for these municipalities planning efforts. Delaying the initiation of aggressive mitigation plans has had huge costs for municipalities. Climate change related storm costs have increased 20 times since 2000.

Since World War II, more than 80,000 synthetic chemicals have been developed. Yet few of them have been tested for their potential negative impacts on the environment or public health. Some of these are asbestos, formaldehyde, glyphosate, PCBs, and Bisphenol A. Of growing concern are Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) which are widespread throughout the environment, highly toxic, and most likely will require a trillion dollar cleanup. These products are cheap to produce but expensive to cleanup

A subset of these chemicals are Endocrine-Disruptors (EDCs) which are natural or human-made chemicals that may mimic, block, or interfere with the body's hormones, which are part of the endocrine system. EDCs are substances in the environment (air, soil, or water supply), food sources, personal care products, and manufactured products that interfere with the normal function of our body’s endocrine system. Since EDCs come from many different sources, people are exposed in multiple ways. EDCs are now found at high levels in our blood stream.

These are only 3 of the many types of problems that our civil society must resolve to assure a heathy life for all our residents. We are leaving a huge legacy of contamination for future generations to adequately remediate in a cost-effective manner.

The GOOD NEWS IS that we have before us tonight a problem that we don’t have to kick down the road to our descendants to resolve. We begin to plan for the mitigation of the Salt Mine’s potential negative environmental and public health impacts TONIGHT! We can restore an environmental review process that is thorough, public, and democratic. If you read my more technical comment that I submitted two days ago, you will more fully understand how a litigious and politically influential corporation could frustrate the public interest. Recently corrective legislation has been introduced in both the NY Senate and Assembly to make the DEC’s statutory responsibilities absolutely clear.

I fully appreciate that County Legislators have many matters that come before them that require a wide range of subject matter expertise. The Cayuga Salt Mine presents you with detailed and complex issues. I thank those Legislators who reached out to me for further information and clarifications. I very much would appreciate your support.