



The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

22 September 2025

Dear Governor Hochul,

Cayuga Lake Environmental Action Now again writes to urge the State of New York to end Cargill's mining of road salt under Cayuga Lake.

In our letter to you of 24 April 2024, we urged you to require that the DEC conduct an EIS at Cargill's Cayuga Salt Mine (for the first time ever). For the past 25 years, our NYS Legislators and many local municipalities on multiple occasions have supported this request. The Lake is the source of drinking water for 100,000 and associated tourism is a major economic driver for the Finger Lakes region.

Despite this widespread public support and submissions by independent third-party scientists urging an environmental impact study (EIS), on August 14th, the DEC issued a new 5-year mining permit to Cargill without requiring an EIS of Cargill's mining operations. The new permit also includes a modification allowing the flooding of the S3 portion of the mine, and did not increase the environmental bond on the mine to \$10B as proposed.

Governor Hochul, we write today to urge you to provide a hard look at the significant environmental (especially safe drinking water) issues. We request that you:

- (1) consider requiring Cargill, the largest private corporation in N. America to post a \$10B bond until all mine voids have closed,
- (2) revise the permit to only permit Cargill to mine salt under land, as long as any future under-land operations can be effectively sealed from the mine under Cayuga Lake, and
- (3) seek a further review (in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency & the Mine Safety and Health Administration) of the entire Cargill salt mine operation and its on-going and potential adverse effects on safe drinking water for our beautiful Finger Lakes region.

CLEAN is aware of a major aquifer on the west shore of Cayuga Lake that is in close proximity to on-going salt mining and which is the current source of safe drinking water for the Village of Trumansburg. This aquifer is at risk of salinization if salt mining is allowed to continue near the west shore.

Provisions of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act provide a new basis to review environmental protections that are needed now. We request that EPA Region 2, working with DEC, review Cargill's operation and determine if the drinking water sources—both the lake water and aquifers near the mine—are adequately protected.

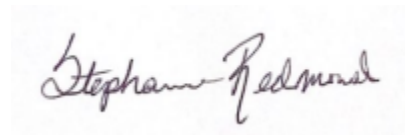
Can we count on you to ask EPA and direct NYSDEC to do so? This process could result in state and federal review and analysis of the water resource that is long overdue. It may result in good and cooperative environmental outcomes at the federal, state and local levels for our region. We so appreciated your stepping in to prevent NYSEG/Avantgrid/Iberdrola from selling Bell Station—the

largest undeveloped lakefront parcel in the Finger Lakes to the highest bidder. Your leadership is again needed, this time to protect our groundwater aquifers and Cayuga Lake.

Finally, our experts note that an EIS would be needed to determine whether or not the mine voids under the lake should be left dry for possible other uses; the newly-permitted flooding of the S3 section of the mine denies the People of the State of New York other economic opportunities for the mine voids once salt mining is ended.

We ask for your much-needed assistance, and look forward to your early response to these requests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Stephanie Redmond". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'S' and 'R'.

Stephanie Redmond
CLEAN Program Manager and Supervisor of the Town of Enfield

Cc:

- Amanda Lefton, Commissioner, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
- Matthew Podniesinski, Chief, Resource Development Section, Bureau of Resource Management & Development, DEC
- Dereeth Glance, Regional Director, Region 7, NYSDEC
- John O'Leary, Deputy Secretary for Energy and the Environment
- Ashley Dougherty, Asst Secretary for the Environment
- Caitlin Stephen, Senior Policy Advisor for Energy and the Environment
- JW Cook, Regional Representative for the Finger Lakes
- Harris Weiss, Regional Representative for the Southern Tier
- Lea Webb, Senator, 52nd District
- Anna Kelles, NYS Assembly, 125th District
- Michael Martucci, EPA Region 2 Administrator
- Josh Riley, U.S. Representative, New York 19th Congressional District