



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

SCOTT M. STRINGER
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

December 7, 2009

The Honorable David A. Paterson
Governor
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Paterson:

With the conclusion of the public comment period on the State's proposed rules for natural gas drilling just weeks away, I am writing to ask that you protect New York City's drinking water by calling for a permanent ban on natural gas drilling in the Catskill-Delaware watershed.

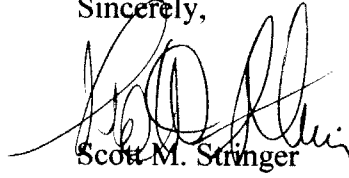
The Bloomberg Administration has stated on the record that drilling for natural gas in the city's watershed poses a public health risk, and a rapidly growing coalition of stakeholders across the city and state are demanding a full ban. Even the energy company holding the vast majority of drilling leases in New York has made a public commitment to refrain from watershed drilling.

Whatever else can be said about the "mitigation measures" contained in the draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement as proposed by the Department of Environmental Conservation ("DEC"), this much is certain: any mitigation measures would be less effective than an outright ban in protecting the unfiltered water consumed by over eight million New Yorkers and the ten to thirty billion in taxpayer dollars that would be required to filter our water.

Having had the honor of working with you for more than three decades, I know better than most your laudable record of environmental protection. In Pete Grannis, as Commissioner of the State Department of Environmental Conservation, you also have a stalwart protector of the environment. We need your collective environmental stewardship on this matter of historic importance to protect one of the State's most precious natural resources and immediately ban natural gas drilling in the Catskill-Delaware watershed.

I stand ready to work with you and Commissioner Grannis on this matter in any fashion that would be useful.

Sincerely,



Scott M. Stringer
Manhattan Borough President

cc: Pete Grannis, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation
Larry Schwartz, Secretary to the Governor
Thomas Congdon, Deputy Secretary for Energy
Peter Iwanowicz, Assistant Secretary for the Environment
Cathy Calhoun, Deputy Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs