

# ULSTER COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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January 2, 2012

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

I write to personally invite you to tour with me and discuss the many serious issues caused by or exacerbated by the NYC DEP here in Ulster County, the source of much of your municipality's water. The NYC DEP is presently operating much like an occupying nation within our County - extracting the natural resource of clean water while simultaneously polluting our waterways and causing massive regional economic hardships. I implore you to see firsthand the damage being wrought by NYC DEP's broken policies and out of balance bureaucratic influence.

My administration has made countless attempts to work with the NYC DEP to correct these injustices. Unfortunately, they have continued to place NYC's short term water costs far ahead of the health and welfare of the citizens of Ulster County. Simply put, our water is being polluted, our people are being disadvantaged and to add insult to injury the taxpayers of Ulster County are being forced to subsidize NYC water rates as a result of "no win" legal proceedings. Rural towns, with limited resources, must choose between driving themselves to the brink of bankruptcy to defend against annual tax litigation or settle with the result that the NYC DEP pays far less than their fair share of property taxes. This action ultimately shifts the burden for NYC water costs to local Ulster County taxpayers and it is fundamentally wrong.

The people of Ulster County fully appreciate the importance of providing water to their neighbors, the millions of NYC residents and businesses. That being said, the balance between providing that water and protecting our pristine environment, our economy and our taxpayers has been grossly manipulated by the NYC DEP and unfairly tilted in NYC's favor.

As the Mayor of the one of the greatest cities in the world, you have the ability to bring justice to this situation and make things right. Your appearance would also send a strong message that you are concerned about where your water comes from and the people you are impacting. This untenable situation should not be allowed to exist

between any municipalities in the United States of America. As such, I urge you to make this matter a top priority in order to address this potential flashpoint of an upstate vs. downstate conflict that is presently undermining our collective desire for "one" New York State. I firmly believe that you have the ability to bring forth long overdue solutions that will better serve the citizens of both of our respective municipalities, as well as our State, and our environment, for generations to come.

Kindly advise when you are available, and I will gladly arrange a tour and meeting at your convenience. I look forward to working with you to bring resolution to these long standing issues.

Sincerely,



Mike Hein  
County Executive

cc: Charles E. Schumer, United States Senator  
Kirsten E. Gillibrand, United States Senator  
Maurice D. Hinchey, United States Congressman  
William J. Larkin, Jr., New York State Senator  
John J. Bonacic, New York State Senator  
Kevin A. Cahill, New York State Assemblymember  
Clifford W. Crouch, New York State Assemblymember  
Pete Lopez, New York State Assemblymember  
Ulster County Legislators  
Joe Martens, Commissioner, New York City Dept. of Environmental Conservation  
Carter Strickland, Commissioner, New York City Dept. of Environmental Protection  
Paul Gallay, Executive Director, Riverkeeper  
Mary McNamara, Lower Esopus Watershed Partnership