



**Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association**

**P.O. Box 247**

**Geneva, N Y 14456**

**SLPWA@senecalake.org**

September 13, 2011

To: All Representative Governing Bodies within the Seneca Lake Watershed

Dear Representative,

This letter is being sent by Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association to over 40 representative governing bodies within the Seneca Lake Watershed at the County, Town, City and Village level of government. The Mission of the Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association is to, *“promote the understanding, preservation and improvement of the water quality, natural habitat and general environmental conditions of Seneca Lake and its watershed by sponsoring or undertaking scientific research, by collecting, preserving, publishing and disseminating information concerning Seneca lake and its watershed and by encouraging and supporting the enforcement of laws and regulations and patterns of development and technology aimed at preserving and enhancing the water quality of the lake”*. In so doing, SLPWA provides a “voice for Seneca Lake and its watershed. As elected officials you represent the thousands of residents in our watershed and provide a voice for them.

Today, Seneca Lake and its watershed are faced with two major threats due to industrialization. Drilling for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale could potentially have an impact on every community within our watershed and the storage of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) in the salt caverns at the southern end of Seneca Lake can impact those surrounding communities. While we “support environmentally and fiscally responsible” drilling for natural gas and LPG storage we believe that today both of these projects cannot be done in a manner that Seneca Lake and its watershed will not face irreparable environmental and fiscal harm. SLPWA itself and as a member of the Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance will continue to provide a “voice for Seneca Lake” regarding what we feel are the environmental and fiscal threats to the lake and its watershed.

As elected representatives of the residents of our watershed, you have the mission to speak for those residents and to protect their way of life and the character of our communities. In so doing, you develop master land use plans, enact zoning rules and ordinances and restrict and control development within your respective jurisdictions. Many of these “local rights” are granted to you by the home rule provisions of the New York State Constitution. A number of our communities have made use of these provisions to protect the character of their communities and their way of life, many have not.

SLPWA urges you to consider what character you and your residents want for your community and act appropriately to preserve that character. Do you want “Boom and Bust”

industrialization, transient “man camps”, increased truck traffic, drilling access roads, noise, air and light pollution, pipe laydown yards, pipe line gathering and distribution systems, gas transfer stations, pressure boosting compressors, drilling mud disposal areas, flaring stations, well flow back treatment facilities or holding tanks and trucking of these wastes in your community? Are you prepared to deal with access roads, heavy truck traffic on your rural roads, and the social and economic demands these projects can have on a community?

Please consider the impact these and similar industrial projects can have on your community and if that is what you want to become. In the next several months, gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale and LPG storage in the salt caverns at the southern end of Seneca Lake can become realities. As representatives of your communities you have the right and obligation to shape, guide and manage the development of your community. Do you want to preserve the natural beauty and way of life you currently have or do you want to abandon that way of life for a future unknown and one that is potentially damaging to Seneca Lake and its watershed?

Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association urges you to exercise your “home rule” rights to protect your communities, Seneca Lake and its watershed. The natural gas within our watershed and the capabilities of the salt caverns to store LPG will not go away in the future. Delaying these activities until we are certain of their environmental and fiscal impact of our communities, our lake and its watershed is your right and obligation. Please act now as you may only have this one opportunity to do so.

Sincerely,

The Officers and Board of Directors of the Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association

Phil Cianciotto  
President of Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association

This letter has been sent to the following elected bodies:

Chemung County Legislature  
Ontario County Board of Supervisors  
Schuyler County Legislature  
Seneca County Board of Supervisors  
Yates County Legislature  
Town Board of Barrington  
Town Board of Benton  
Village Board of Burdett  
Town Board of Catharine  
Town Board of Catlin  
Town Board of Cayuta  
Town Board of Dix

Village Board of Dresden  
Village Board of Dundee  
Town Board of Fayette  
City Council of Geneva  
Town Board of Geneva  
Town Board of Gorham  
Town Board of Hector  
Town Board of Horseheads  
Village Board of Horseheads  
Town Board of Jerusalem  
Town Board of Lodi  
Village Board of Lodi  
Town Board of Milo  
Village Board of Millport  
Town Board of Montour  
Village Board of Montour Falls  
Village Board of Odessa  
Town Board of Orange  
Town Board of Ovid  
Village Board of Ovid  
Village Board of Penn Yan  
Town Board of Phelps  
Town Board of Potter  
Town Board of Reading  
Town Board of Romulus  
Town Board of Seneca  
Town Board of Starkey  
Town Board of Torrey  
Town Board of Tyrone  
Town Board of Varick  
Town Board of Veteran  
Town Board of Waterloo  
Village Board of Watkins Glen