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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
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July 11, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Vice Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Leahy and Vice Chairman Shelby:

I am writing to express my support for the Town of Brunswick's congressionally directed spending request of \$2 million for the Van Derheyden Reservoir Dam Rehabilitation Project in the Fiscal Year 2023 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation currently classifies the site as "unsound," assigning a Class B – Intermediate Hazard rating. Maintaining the integrity of Upstate infrastructure to eliminate potential hazards that would follow a failure or breach of the dam is vitally important to residents and commuters. Funding this rehabilitation project will ensure the continued protection of residents, public roadways, private property, and wildlife.

Plans for the Van Derheyden Reservoir Dam currently include a 13' expansion of its spillway, doubling the basin to 27' wide, with additional construction of reinforced concrete walls. The Town of Brunswick notes that these measures will specifically protect two culverts, the CR-44 Bridge, and a National Grid gas distribution main, as well as any traffic in proximity. The benefits of the dam's rehabilitation are clear, as is the threat of flooding to the immediate area.

For many municipalities, state and federal grants are the only opportunity to finance or maintain rural dam sites. Obligating funding to rehabilitate the Van Derheyden Reservoir Dam now negates the possibility of critical dam failure in the future, which could be an even greater expense to taxpayers.

If you have any questions, please contact Jonathan Carman in my Plattsburgh district office at 518-561-2324.

Sincerely,



Elise M. Stefanik  
Member of Congress

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