



Libi's List
We are Long Island!

Long Island Builders Institute

Mitchell H. Pally

Chief Executive Officer

4/25/2017

STATEMENT OF THE LONG ISLAND BUILDERS INSTITUTE REGARDING RESOLUTION 1262-2017 TO ESTABLISH A GRANT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR THE INSTALLATION OF INNOVATIVE AND ALTERNATIVE ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS

THE LONG ISLAND BUILDERS INSTITUTE, THE LARGEST RESIDENTIAL BUILDING TRADE ASSOCIATION IN NEW YORK STATE, WISHES TO EXPRESS ITS STRONG SUPPORT FOR THIS RESOLUTION WHICH WILL CREATE A GRANT PROGRAM TO ASSIST IN THE INSTALLATION OF NEW AND INNOVATIVE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS.

THE ABILITY OF YOUR SUFFOLK COUNTY RESIDENTS TO AFFORD THE INSTALLATION OF SUCH SYSTEMS SHOULD NOT BE A FACTOR IN DETERMINING WHETHER SUCH SYSTEMS ARE INSTALLED SO AS TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF NITROGEN WHICH GOES INTO OUR GROUNDWATER. LIBI SUPPORTS THE USE OF THESE FUNDS FOR THIS PURPOSE AND SUPPORTS HOW THE PROCESS WILL WORK BY ALLOWING FLEXIBILITY TO PROVIDE THE FUNDS EITHER TO THE OWNER OF THE PROPERTY OR TO THE INSTALLER DIRECTLY. THIS WILL ALLOW ALL PROPERTY OWNERS TO DETERMINE HOW BEST TO MANAGE THE INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE NEW SYSTEM. WE ALSO SUPPORT TWO OTHER PROVISIONS INCLUDED WITHIN THE LEGISLATION, FIRST THAT THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS BEING PROVIDED IS DETERMINED BY THE GROSS INCOME OF THE PROPERTY OWNERS AND SECOND THAT THE USE OF SUCH GRANTS CAN BE PHASED IN ON A GEOGRAPHIC BASIS TO ALLOW FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR SUCH GRANTS FIRST. AS YOU ARE AWARE, THIS PROVISION IS CONSISTENT WITH LIBI'S POSITION THAT ANY MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR SUCH INSTALLATIONS WHICH MAY BE CONSIDERED BY THIS COUNTY LEGISLATURE AT A LATER DATE ALSO BE PHASED IN TO FIRST START WITH SUCH ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS AND THEN TO EXPAND EXPONENTIALLY TO OTHER AREAS OF THE COUNTY. THIS PROVISION SHOWS AN AWARENESS OF THE GEOGRAPHIC DIFFERENCES INHERANT IN THE COUNTY AND HOW DIFFERENT AREAS SHOULD BE TREATED DIFFERENTLY.

THE ONLY ADDITION WE WOULD REQUEST TO THIS LEGISLATION IS AN AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 839 BY ALLOWING PROPERTY OWNERS OF NEW HOMES CONSTRUCTED AFTER A DATE CERTAIN TO ALSO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE GRANT PROGRAM IN THE SAME MANNER AS PROPERTY OWNERS WHO ARE REPLACING THEIR SYSTEMS. THE ABILITY OF NEW HOMEOWNERS TO FINANCE THE ADDITIONAL COSTS OF THESE SYSTEMS, ESPECIALLY THOSE PURCHASING AFFORDABLE HOMES, SHOULD ALSO NOT BE A FACTOR IN WHETHER SUCH A SYSTEM IS INSTALLED. THIS LEGISLATION SHOULD NOT PENALIZE A NEW HOMEOWNER IN THE SAME ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS BY NOT ALLOWING THEM TO ALSO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS MUCH NEEDED PROGRAM. EXPANSION OF THIS MUCH NEEDED PROGRAM WOULD BE A BENEFIT TO ALL CONCERNED AND WE WOULD VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE WOULD MAKE THE GRANT PROGRAM BETTER BY EXPANDING ITS USAGE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION OF OUR VIEWS.