

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3203

April 30, 2025

The Honorable Lee Zeldin
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of the Administrator 1101A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Zeldin:

I write to express my deep concern regarding the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) unacceptable delay in finalizing the grant agreement necessary to release critical funding for the City of Canandaigua's drinking water treatment system upgrade. This funding is essential to safeguard the health and safety of over 40,000 residents across Ontario and Wayne Counties, from Canandaigua itself to neighboring towns like Bristol, Hopewell, Farmington and Manchester and communities served by the Wayne County Water Authority like Macedon, Walworth, and Palmyra.

I was proud to secure a bi-partisan \$1.75 million Congressionally Directed Spending investment in fiscal year 2024 to enable Canandaigua's installation of crucial equipment to remove hazardous disinfection byproducts from the public water supply – chemicals which are known to cause serious health issues, including liver and kidney damage, as well as cancer. This project, developed through collaboration between city officials and state regulators, directly responds to urgent mandates to improve water quality and protect public health.

Now, despite the clear congressional intent and urgent public health need, the City of Canandaigua is facing severe uncertainty. The City must go out to bid within the next 30 days in order to begin design and construction this fall and stay on track to deliver safe, clean drinking water to its residents. Yet, EPA's persistent delays in approving the final agreements threaten to derail this delicate timeline, jeopardizing both the health of thousands of New Yorkers and the public's trust in federal responsiveness.

The EPA's delay in obligating this funding is unacceptable and is placing entire communities at risk. Every day that passes without final approval raises the risks to public health, increases potential project costs, and undermines the ability of responsible municipalities to deliver safe and essential drinking water services to local residents, farms, businesses, and organizations.

Therefore, I urge EPA to immediately approve the final grant agreement and release the \$1.75 million funding to allow the City of Canandaigua to move forward without delay. The lives, health, and well-being of tens of thousands of Upstate New Yorkers depend on swift and decisive action.

I stand ready to work with you to resolve any outstanding issues, but make no mistake: delay is not an option. The residents of Ontario and Wayne Counties deserve safe drinking water, and they deserve it without obstruction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles Schumer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Charles" and last name "Schumer" clearly legible.

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator