

Dear Environmental Groups and Decision-Makers in the Finger Lakes,

We have been fighting a proposed garbage burning facility in Romulus between Seneca and Cayuga Lakes - the heart of the Finger Lakes region - and were close to getting a bill passed that would prohibit the construction of garbage incinerators in the region until it stalled before the end of the 2018 legislative session.

This bill would prevent the region from having to undergo a lengthy, costly Article 10 process that would remove decision-making from local control. The 2018 bill, championed by Senator Pam Helming and receiving wide-spread bi-partisan support, was unanimously passed by the Senate last year.

We've had to start all over again in 2019 searching for new sponsors in the new legislature. We're happy to announce that Senator Rachel May from Syracuse and Assembly Member Michael Cusick are sponsoring our bill, and we would like to thank them for their support as we hope to move this bill swiftly through the legislature and onto Governor Cuomo's desk.

Garbage incinerators emit more Carbon Dioxide than coal burning plants. With the promise of New York advancing a Green New Deal, construction of such a facility is a bad idea anywhere in the state, let alone in the heart of the Finger Lakes. The Finger Lakes already receives over 50% of all of New York's garbage into its regional landfills. Bringing in an additional 3,000 tons of garbage from New York City every day via truck and rail is unacceptable and does not offer a substitute for landfills, as the toxic ash from incineration would need to be sent to nearby landfills.

We hope to get this bill passed and move on to work with other groups throughout the state to get a statewide ban on trash incinerators. This is the first step and we ask that your group, or you as an elected official, please reply to this email if your group, or you as an official within a group, or you as an elected official would like to sign on to the attached letter and deliver a message of Finger Lakes unity.

How to sign on: Please send an email to gasfreesenecagirl@gmail.com

- 1) If you are an elected official, please include your name, your position,/ title, and the region/ district/ county/ Town/ Village you represent
- 2) If you are a member of an organization, please include your name, the name of your organization, and your title
- 3) If you are signing on as an entire group, please include the name of your group (i.e. "Finger Lakes Wine Business Coalition")

Once the bill is introduced, we're counting on you to help us as we urge Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie and Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins to do everything in their power to ensure swift passage of this bill.

Because of the fast moving nature of this process, we ask that you please respond to this request by no later than next Tuesday, January 29th. Please feel free to forward to other groups or individuals who may be willing to sign on.

Thank you and Best Regards,

Yvonne Taylor, Co-Founder and Vice President, Gas Free Seneca, Seneca Lake Guardian, A Waterkeeper Affiliate