



BEDFORD AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

A Northern Westchester & Eastern Putnam County,
New York chapter of the National Audubon Society
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Senator Vincent Leibell
Room 802, Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Senator Leibell,

The Watersheds/Flood Prevention Act S.4480-A would enhance New York State's wetland protection program and fill gaps in wetlands protection resulting from the federal SWANCC vs. US Army Corps of Engineers court case allowing filling of isolated wetlands under the federal Clean Water Act.

The State Senate reconvenes on Thursday, November 18 and we are writing to ask you to personally urge Senate majority leader Joseph Bruno to support this legislation and bring it bill to a vote during the extended legislative session.

Richard Tomer, Chief of Regulatory Branch of the New York District Office of the Army Corps of Engineers has said that roughly one fourth of wetlands in eastern New York are being denied federal protection as a result of the inability of New York State DEC to regulate filling in of wetlands smaller than 12.4 acres in size.

S.4480-A enjoys broad support in the Senate and we are hopeful that it can be passed when the Senate returns to Albany this month. In a year noted to legislative inaction, the senate has an opportunity to pass critically needed legislation that will be appreciated by your local constituents.

We hope that you will again make passage of this bill one of your priorities when the Senate returns to Albany this week.

Thank you for your support of the environment over the past year. Please let us know what you are able to do on this crucial issue affecting all New Yorkers.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald C. Pachner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Donald C. Pachner
Bedford Audubon Conservation Committee
Member of the Board of Directors