

SUSPENSION

**A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED
BY LEGISLATOR PATRICK BURKE
RE: Consolidating Municipal Sewers in Erie County**

WHEREAS, there are currently a minimum of 19 sewer servicers separate from the Erie County Division of Sewerage Management, each responsible for their individual maintenance and improvements, resulting in an unevenly distributed tax rate among the population of Erie County and an inefficient use of federal and state resources; and

WHEREAS, water and wastewater are not limited by municipal boundaries, the failure of one municipality to properly treat their water has a significant impact on populations outside of their jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, improving the water quality of Lake Erie is integral to revitalizing the beaches and water attractions in Erie County, which can only be accomplished through a holistic regional watershed approach; and

WHEREAS, the current disjointed state of sewer systems directly inhibits a countywide coordinated effort; and

WHEREAS, the current municipal sewer servicers typically designate sewage and sewer management to their Department of Public Works, who have a multitude of responsibilities, consequently resulting in limited attention to sewers specifically; and

WHEREAS, merging the municipal sewer systems within the county under the Erie County Division of Sewerage Management would improve water quality and fiscal efficiency

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this Legislature recognizes the positive economic, social, and environmental impact that a single countywide sewer servicer would have on our region; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Legislature encourages the Erie County Division of Sewer Management to develop a strategy for the absorption of municipal sewer systems in Erie County; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature forward certified copies of this resolution to the Erie County Executive, the Honorable Mark Poloncarz; Joseph Fiegl, Erie County Division of Sewer Management; the New York State Governor, the Honorable Andrew Cuomo; and the offices of all members of the Western New York Area Delegation to Albany.

FISCAL IMPACT: None