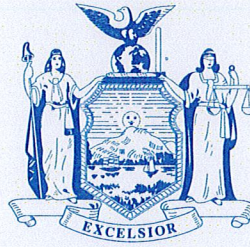


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THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



CHRISTOPHER L. JACOBS
SENATOR, 60TH DISTRICT

ALBANY OFFICE:
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Albany, New York 12247
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February 9, 2018

Mr. Mark W. Thomas
Western District Director
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 1132
Niagara Falls, New York 14303

Dear Mark,

My office has been contacted by many Grand Island residents regarding State Park's plans for West River Parkway. I have received calls and emails in favor and opposed to the bike path conversion. The only element in common with all those who have contacted me seems to be anger and frustration and that leads me to a conclusion that the public process was flawed.

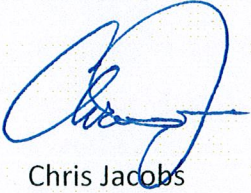
I realize New York State Park's has decided to proceed with this project. However, it is my hope that a more concerted effort is made to truly reach out to stakeholders as important decisions will be made to the final plans and operation of this new trail, with a particular sensitivity to the West River homeowners who will be the ones experiencing a significant change to their daily lives due to this conversion of West River Parkway.

In that regard, I am seeking three specific assurances from your office before this project proceeds. First, I would like to know the ownership of the Parkway once it is closed, and whether it will be designated as State Park property. Second, I am seeking legally-binding documentation that the land along the Parkway will not be made available for any private development. Third, I would like confirmation that future maintenance of the Parkway will be handled by State Parks. Further, a maintenance plan should be fully vetted with the residents living in proximity to the Parkway and assurances that Parks will adhere to this maintenance plan and schedule. Let me be clear, I do not believe any construction work should commence before these concerns are vetted and resolved.



It is my hope these assurances, as well as an open line of communication with the Town and West River residents moving forward, will go a long way to ease some of the acrimony that has unfortunately been a part of this issue for too long. Thank you for your time on this matter.

Sincerely,



Chris Jacobs
New York State Senator
60th District

cc: Nate McMurray, Supervisor, Town of Grand Island
Beverly A. Kinney, Councilwoman, Town of Grand Island
Mike Madigan, Councilman, Town of Grand Island
Peter Marston, Jr., Councilman, Town of Grand Island
Jennifer L. Baney, Councilwoman, Town of Grand Island