

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday January 10, 2012

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LEGISLATOR STEVE STERN INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH SUFFOLK COUNTY SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE BANK

Initiative Will Spur Economy, Create Jobs, Expand Sewer System, and Protect Our Environment

Huntington, NY— Suffolk County Legislator Steve Stern (D-Huntington), 16th LD, announced the introduction of legislation that will begin the process of establishing the Suffolk County Infrastructure Bank as an innovative way to create public-private partnerships to provide the funding necessary for infrastructure projects that will better serve the residents of Suffolk County. The Bank would provide a method for Suffolk County to leverage assets of the private business sector in order to finance infrastructure and economic development projects, especially sewer expansion, that may otherwise not proceed due to economic or funding constraints.

Legislator Stern explained “In these challenging economic times we are too often faced with the difficult decisions of making draconian cuts to vital services, such as public safety and health care, or repairing and expanding infrastructure. This public-private partnership will support economic development and create local jobs while protecting essential core services and taxpayer dollars.”

In addition to providing necessary funding, public-private partnerships can cut through onerous red tape while maintaining transparency, helping ensure on-time, on budget projects that are pro-growth, pro-business, and pro-environment ventures which will enhance our quality of life. It is a model that utilizes a private sector business investment rather than a big government approach.

“The fact that approximately 70% of Suffolk County remains unsewered means that all of the great things we want and need to accomplish: economic development, creating good-paying jobs, keeping our young people here on Long Island with affordable workforce housing, and protecting our precious drinking water and environment remains elusive.” Legislator Stern continued “Expanding our sewer infrastructure is the key our future. And in our new reality of “doing more with less,” now is the time to move forward with a new model that will create a partnership with business and provide Suffolk County taxpayers with a lot more bang for their buck.”

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