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February 22, 2024

New York State Department of Health
Watertown District
Dulles State Office Building
317 Washington Street
Watertown, NY 13601-3741
Email address: wado@health.ny.gov

Re: Concern Regarding Proposed Septic System on Carleton Island in the St.
Lawrence River, Town of Cape Vincent, Jefferson County

Dear Department of Health:

On behalf of 30 or so owners of residential properties on Carleton Island, Town of Cape Vincent, Jefferson County, I am contacting the Department of Health to express concern regarding a waste water disposal system incorporated in a campground which one Ronald Clapp proposes to construct on Carleton Island. Carleton Island is the furthest upstream of the American side of the Thousand Islands in the St. Lawrence River.

A photograph included with this letter is a satellite photo showing the portion of Carleton Island where the proposed campground would be constructed, and shows the most recent site plan for the proposed campground. (Applications for permission to construct the proposed campground are currently pending before the Town of Cape Vincent Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals.) A second photograph is a satellite photo of all of Carleton Island which is submitted to give context to the first photo.

As can be seen from the first photo, most of the proposed campground would be located on a roughly 400 foot by 500 foot rectangular parcel (the "Neck") which connects the peninsula at the western end of Carleton Island (the "Head") to the main body of the Island lying to the east (the "Body"). The Neck is bordered on the north and south by the shorelines of two bays known as North Bay and South Bay.

Carleton Island residents are concerned that any below ground septic system for the proposed campground would likely contaminate groundwater and North and South Bays. We hope that the Department would not grant a permit to such a system that did

not strictly adhere to the state sanitary code rules and regulations provided in Appendix 75-A. If the new septic system cannot meet the required horizontal and vertical separation distances, we ask that no variance or Specific Waiver is issued for the project. We understand that these separation distances have been established to protect human health and the environment. We note that the campground environment is particularly vulnerable because the campground is near fresh water, low lying and subject to shoreline flooding.

Sincerely,



David Kernan
Member Steering Committee
Friends of Carleton Island

cc: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Region 6
email: informations.r6@dec.ny.gov

Save the River, John Peach, Executive Director
email: executivedirector@savetheriver.org

Thousand Island Land Trust
email: jtibbles@tilandtrust.org

Town of Cape Vincent Zoning Board of Appeals, c/o Cody Higgins
email: codyh32686@gmail.com

Google Maps



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