

January 2026

Dear Governor Hochul, Commissioner Lefton, Commissioner Ball, and Members of the New York State Legislature,

As a local elected official representing a community that values both our farmland and our drinking water, I am writing to urge your strong support for A6192C/S5759B — legislation that establishes a moratorium on the land application of sewage sludge in New York State, while advancing statewide testing, monitoring, and assistance for affected farmers.

I represent District 9 in the Steuben County Legislature and serve as Thurston Town Supervisor. Our county has more farmland than any other in the state, by far. It also has alarmingly high PFAS levels in the groundwater near its sewage-treated fields — nine times higher than elsewhere, according to independent water testing done here in Thurston, Cameron, and Bath. Some samples exceeded both state and federal health guidelines for compounds like PFOA. And worse of all, as the contamination has continued, nearby residents had no idea their drinking water supply was being invaded by dangerous chemicals.

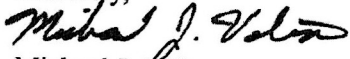
After finding out the harm caused by sewage sludge spreading in Steuben County, we stepped up and banned it in Thurston and Cameron, two towns I proudly represent in the County Legislature. Our town bans have functioned well and begun to protect our residents from more exposure to PFAS contamination.

New York should not wait until it is too late. A6192C/S5759B offers a balanced and responsible path forward. By pausing land application, increasing testing and transparency, and providing support for impacted farmers, we can protect both our agricultural economy and the health of our residents.

I urge you to pass this bill without delay and affirm New York's commitment to safe agriculture, clean water, and environmental leadership. Our communities should not bear the long-term costs of short-term waste management practices.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter and for your continued dedication to protecting the people, farms, and natural resources of New York State.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Volino

Thurston Town Supervisor and Steuben County District 9 County Legislator
607-227-5621 / supervisor@townofthurstonny.gov