

# *Village of Ballston Spa*

Saratoga County Seat  
66 FRONT STREET

*Ballston Spa, NY 12020*

Phone: 518-885-5711

Fax: 518-885-0512

Dear Senator James Tedisco,

The Village of Ballston Spa is writing today in support of S3968-A to create the Safe Water Infrastructure Action Program known as SWAP.

We wish to thank you for the support of recent capital funding for water infrastructure that is essential to address capital projects, replacement and upgrading critical infrastructure. While these programs are necessary and essential tools for replacing and building new infrastructure, they do not address the underlying issue of increased maintenance requirements and operating expenses.

Insufficient operation and maintenance funding is a major contributor to our infrastructure issues. Years of unavoidable deferring maintenance of critical infrastructure savings and inability to apply for government funding are just some of the reasons that led to insufficient operation and maintenance funding, especially in the Village of Ballston Spa.

With SWAP being designed to provide municipalities with a water, sewer, and storm water infrastructure a supplemental funding stream to support operation and maintenance activities the Village of Ballston Spa fully supports this legislation. Just like the successful Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS), municipalities would know what their annual SWAP allotment would be. This would afford us the opportunity to perform maintenance and/or replacement activities, which can be performed by our municipal staff. These would be smaller projects such as equipment replacement, manhole rehabilitation or water line replacement. The long-term sustainability of the systems would improve through the increased operation and maintenance funding and rates could stabilize and remain affordable.

Some of the infrastructure in Ballston Spa dates back over a hundred years and the interconnectivity of water means that if the infrastructure fails in one location, many cities, towns and villages will also be affected. For these reasons, the Village of Ballston Spa supports S3968-A to develop a dedicated funding program to distribute funds annually to municipalities to ensure the integrity and reliance of municipal water, sewer and storm water infrastructure, and we respectfully urge your support of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Mayor Frank Rossi, Jr.