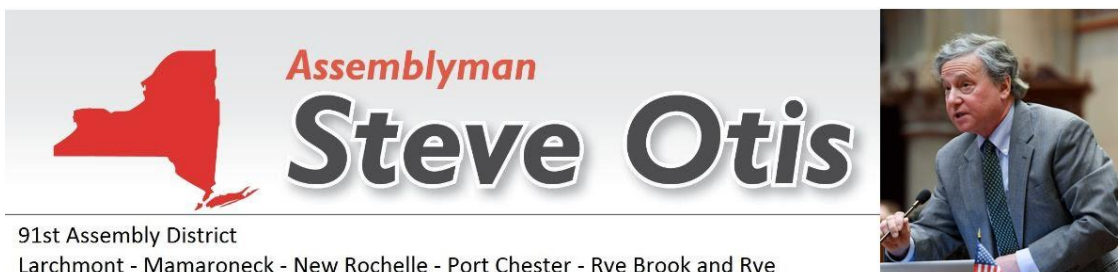


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January 15th, 2025

Dear Friends,

I wish you and your family a very Happy New Year.

The 2025 Legislative Session has begun, and I look forward to continued progress and in achieving results on key issues in the coming year.

December brought good news on several important pieces of legislation I carried. Three of my major bills were signed into law by Governor Hochul after negotiations on specific language modifications culminated in agreements between the Governor and both houses of the legislature.

The most important legislation signed was my bill to institute transparency and monitoring of state agency use of artificial intelligence and automated decision-making tools. This was the first bill in the nation to place guardrails in statute for state government use of AI.

The Governor also signed a cybersecurity bill I sponsored related to state government purchasing and legislation expanding access to flood insurance. Articles on all three bills are included in this newsletter.

Last week I was reappointed as Chair of the Assembly Science and Technology Committee, an assignment that has allowed me to work on cutting-edge issues including AI, cybersecurity, data privacy, and digital equity. I am excited to continue my work on important technology issues and ensure New York stays on top of quickly evolving topics in many state capitols, nationally, and in Europe.

We have all seen the impact of natural disasters in Westchester. It is difficult to comprehend the catastrophic damage experienced by communities affected by the California fires. This newsletter includes links to several charities providing assistance.

I will keep you updated on upcoming issues in the proposed state budget and the legislative session. As always, do not hesitate to contact me or my staff on issues in this email or any matter with which we can be helpful. My office number is 914-939-7028.

Warm Regards,



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**Landmark Legislation Regulating Government Use of AI Signed by Governor Hochul**

ALBANY, NY – On Saturday, Governor Hochul signed a landmark bill requiring that automated decision-making systems used by state agencies be subject to guardrails and regulation. Sponsored by NY State Senator Kristen Gonzalez and

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Assemblymember Steve Otis, this bill (S.7543B/A.9430B ) **marks the first time any state in the U.S. has enacted legislation providing transparency and inventory governing the use of artificial intelligence in state government operations. The legislation also protects collective bargaining and employment rights of government employees where automated decision-making tools are used.**

Under the legislation, the NYS Office of Information Technology Services will maintain an inventory of state agency artificial intelligence systems and provide guidance of agencies identifying the elements to be collected and submitted for the inventory. The inventory will be available to the public through posting on the New York State open data website.

**Kristen Gonzalez, Chair of the Senate Committee on Internet and Technology**, said, “I want to thank the Governor for her signature on this first in the nation legislation. By signing this bill, the Governor has positioned New York as a leader in leveraging the opportunity of AI while setting the standard for protecting government workers. As we adopt more AI-powered tools, we need accountability and transparency to provide New Yorkers with a deep understanding of how these tools are being used. I am proud of the work we’ve done alongside Assemblymember Otis, the NYS AFL-CIO, CSEA, and Public Employees Federation to pass this legislation and I look forward to continuing to regulate artificial intelligence as Chair of the Senate Internet and Technology Committee.”

**Steve Otis, Chair of the Assembly Science and Technology Committee**, said, “Governor Hochul has made New York State a leader in technology growth and the beneficial uses of AI. The Governor has now positioned our state to take the lead in careful use and transparency for governmental applications of automated decision-making. Senator Gonzalez and I have developed legislation so that governmental uses are reviewed and evaluated. Other states should take steps to

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put guardrails in place. Congratulations also go to the NYS AFL-CIO, CSEA, and Public Employees Federation for their important involvement and support.”

**New York State AFL-CIO President Mario Cilento** said, “We commend Senator Gonzalez and Assemblymember Otis for sponsoring this bill and thank the Senate and Assembly Democratic Leadership and Democratic Majorities in both houses for passing the LOADinG Act. Collaborating with Governor Hochul, everyone involved enacted this historic law to bring transparency to AI usage in state agencies and provide essential protections for state workers. We look forward to continuing to work with Senator Gonzalez and Assemblymember Otis to ensure all employers implement AI responsibly.”

As our government adopts more AI powered tools, we need accountability to protect workers and transparency to provide New Yorkers with a deep understanding of how these tools are being used in everyday operations. The signing of S.7543B/A.9430B underscores the commitment of New York State to be a leader in responsible use of artificial intelligence.

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**Hybrid Electric Ferry Christening at Derecktor Shipyard in Mamaroneck**

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Last week I attended an exciting ceremony in Mamaroneck Harbor with local officials, leaders of the Mamaroneck Chamber of Commerce, the team at Derecktor Shipyards, and a delegation of officials from Savannah, Georgia, to celebrate the christening of two state-of-the-art hybrid-electric passenger ferries bound for Savannah. Since 1947 Derecktor Shipyards has been a leader in shipbuilding and recognized for well-constructed yachts and commercial vessels,

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including famous racing sailboats, renowned motor yachts, and barrier-breaking high-speed ferries.

The occasion marked the christening of two new ferries taking passengers across the Savannah River to Hutchinson Island. Chatham Area Transit commissioned Derecktor Shipyards to build these made-to-order vessels with the latest in advanced engineering, sustainable practices, and energy efficiency, to which Derecktor has pivoted in recent years. Hybrid ferries have lower emissions compared to traditional diesel-powered vessels, enhanced energy efficiency, and improved passenger comfort.

Derecktor is a longstanding Mamaroneck business with three other shipyards along the East Coast. The two vessels, the Juliette Gordon Low II and the Susie King Taylor II, will join the existing historic fleet already serving Savannah. Generations of vessels have been built and launched by Derecktor in Mamaroneck over the decades.

I was joined in this photo with Erik Derecktor, Paul Derecktor, Mamaroneck Town Supervisor Jaine Elkind Eney, and State Senator Shelley Mayer.

You can read their press release [HERE](#).

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**Ribbon Cutting at the Waverly Avenue Bridge in Mamaroneck**

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The reopening of Waverly Avenue Bridge in Mamaroneck was welcome news for many area residents. The bridge, a key crossing in the village of Mamaroneck, required reconstruction and redesign. The new bridge replaces an outdated structure with a modern design that enhances community safety and mobility and is part of a larger effort to address infrastructure needs in flood-prone areas.

The bridge design incorporates recommendations from the 2017 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Flood Risk Management Report, including a wider span and raised elevation to improve water flow. While some utility and paving work will continue in the coming months, the bridge is now operational and an important part of the area's flood mitigation strategy.

The \$5 million project was led by the Town of Mamaroneck, owner of the bridge, and included \$1.75 million in state from the BridgeNY program and \$2.084 million

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from Westchester County's Flood Mitigation Grant program. Among the many officials and municipal employees at the opening were former County Executive and now our Congressman George Latimer, Town Supervisor Jaine Elkind Eney, Village of Mamaroneck Trustee Nora Lucas, and County Legislator Catherine Parker.

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### **Shoreline Property Protection Bill Signed Into Law**

Legislation I sponsored with Senator Mayer (A. 9821/ S. 8320-A) was signed into law by Governor Hochul that would Increase the number of properties eligible for the coastal market assistance program by providing eligibility to properties within one mile of the shore.

The increasing incidence of extreme weather events due to climate change has led to severe and disastrous flooding around the state, much of it in areas that have never experienced such events. As part of a comprehensive, state-wide approach to ensuring resiliency, we must do more to protect homeowners struggling to recover and rebuild after storms. This includes ensuring that homeowners property insurance is available to those living in communities that may be affected by adverse events.

The Coastal Market Assistance Program (CMAP), established under section 5414 of the insurance law after Hurricane Andrew, is meant to ensure that homeowners are able to purchase coverage in areas where private insurers are reluctant to go. Section 5414 provides that New York Property Insurance Underwriting Association (NYPIUA) "shall create a coastal market assistance program to provide a voluntary mechanism whereby insurers and insurance agents and brokers facilitate efficient access to participating private market insurance companies for those personal residential property risks located in coastal areas."

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NYPIUA policies do not include liability, flood, or theft coverage, but provide homeowners insurance coverage in hard to cover areas. CMAP currently applies to properties within 2500 feet of the shoreline in the Bronx and Westchester and Long Island's North Shore, and to properties within one mile of the shoreline in Queens, Brooklyn, Staten Island, and the South Shore of Long Island."

This bill would expand the geographical coverage of CMAP to properties located within one mile from the shoreline in all covered areas, and would broaden the definition of "shore" to include Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, the Saint Lawrence River and the Niagara River. The bill also empowers NYPIUA to adopt additional or more expansive eligibility standards.



[Westchester HEAP](#)

[Regular Benefit Info](#)



## **Resources to Help California Wildfire Victims**

[California Community Fund](#)

[Pasadena Community Foundation](#)

[YMCA of LA](#)

[Red Cross](#)

[United Way LA](#)

[World Central Kitchen](#)

[Project HOPE](#)

[Americares](#)

[Humane Society of US](#)

[Pasadena Humane Society](#)

[All Seated In a Barn](#)

[LA Equestrian Center](#)



