



Dear Neighbors,

It's been another week of difficult news and extreme weather. My heart is broken for all of the people who lost their lives during the heavy rains in New York City and surrounding areas Tuesday night. I am sending you all peace and strength as we enter the holiday weekend.



I want to thank [Governor Hochul](#) for bringing the legislature back to Albany this week for a special session to work on critical legislation to support our community as we make our way through this pandemic. We voted to extend the Eviction Moratorium through January 15. The bill also includes a provision to permit government, committees, and advisory boards to meet remotely through January 15.

I was proud to vote for a balanced piece of [legislation](#) that supports tenants and small landlords. We increased funding to the \$2.7 billion dollars of federal funds in the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). And crucially, by extending the eviction moratorium, we enabled the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance to get these funds to the people who need them. So far, only \$203 million or about 7% of ERAP funds have been distributed. This is far too slow a pace and I am greatly encouraged to see the work Governor Hochul has accomplished in her first week to get this money out the door.

We also increased funding for the Safe Harbor Act, which provides relief to small landlords who cannot access ERAP funds. I fought hard to include this \$100 million safety net for small landlords in the budget this year and I am thrilled that we were able to add an additional \$150 million to this essential fund. I will continue to fight to make sure this \$250 million gets distributed quickly to small landlords.

These measures will keep people in their homes so we don't face an explosion of homelessness and ensure that we also protect our small landlords and make them whole.

In addition, the bill we passed last night includes a provision to permit state lawmakers and localities to meet remotely until January 15, 2022.

Help Finger Lakes Land Trust Preserve Bell Station Property in Lansing



Please [sign this petition](#) if you havent already!

An appeal from our friends at Finger Lake Land Trust:

Bell Station is a remarkable, 470-acre property featuring 3,400 feet of pristine shoreline on the east side of Cayuga Lake. The property was originally acquired by New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG) for a power plant that was never built. Bell Station features wooded hillsides, cascading waterfalls, extensive fields currently leased for agriculture, and several tributaries to the lake.

The Bell Station project is recognized as a priority in New York State's Open Space Plan and is designated as "future public access conservation land" in the 2018 Town of Lansing Comprehensive Plan. It is the largest privately owned parcel of shoreline remaining in the Finger Lakes.

Acquisition of the site for conservation will greatly enhance public access to the east side of Cayuga Lake, which is 90% privately owned. Permanent conservation of the property will also prevent additional residential development on the steep hillsides above the lake, development that would likely contribute to the lake's harmful algal blooms. Fields on the eastern portion of the site could provide an opportunity for solar energy development that is of interest to the Town of Lansing.

For all these reasons, the Finger Lakes Land Trust has been pursuing the conservation of the Bell Station property for a number of years. Interest in this conservation project is shared by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the NYSDEC has designated the Land Trust as its agent to pursue acquisition of the land.

The Finger Lakes Land Trust proposes to work together with the NYSDEC, the Town of Lansing, Tompkins County, and other key stakeholders to acquire the land and create a public wildlife management area on the lakeshore portion of the property, while exploring the feasibility of utilizing the easternmost portion of the property for solar energy production. The wildlife management area will be owned and managed by the NYSDEC and open to the public for a variety of recreational uses including hiking, cross country skiing, wildlife watching, hunting, and fishing.

The Finger Lakes Land Trust has expressed its interest to NYSEG in negotiating a sale of the land that would achieve these public benefits while providing the company with fair market value compensation. Unfortunately, NYSEG has announced its intention to sell the land through a sealed bid,

public auction. While the Land Trust is able to participate in this auction, it makes a positive conservation outcome much less certain.

The Finger Lakes Land Trust encourages all concerned citizens to respectfully request that NYSEG cancel its auction and instead enter into transparent negotiations with the Land Trust, as agent for the NYSDEC. This will offer an opportunity for NYSEG to help ensure the future of this unique stretch of Cayuga Lake shoreline.

For additional information, please contact the Finger Lakes Land Trust at info@fllt.org or (607) 275-9487.

In good health,



Anna Kelles, Ph.D.

Assemblymember, 125th A.D.

ALBANY OFFICE
LOB 833
Albany, NY 12248
518-455-5444

CORTLAND OFFICE
83 Main St
PO Box 5026
Cortland, NY 13045
607-208-2024

ITHACA OFFICE
106 East Court Street
Ithaca, NY 14850
607-277-8030

Assembly District 125 | kellesa@nyassembly.gov

