

**COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS**

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE,
AND RELATED AGENCIES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS,
AND RELATED PROGRAMS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION,
AND RELATED AGENCIES



Grace Meng

Congress of the United States

Sixth District, New York

**CONGRESSIONAL ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICAN CAUCUS**

VICE CHAIR

APPROPRIATIONS TASK FORCE
CHAIR

<http://www.meng.house.gov>
www.facebook.com/repgracemeng
twitter: @repgracemeng

October 27, 2022

Susan Ackerman
Regional Permit Administrator
NYSDEC Region One
50 Circle Road
Stony Brook, New York 11790

Dear Ms. Ackerman,

I write to express my concerns regarding Peconic Environmental Services' application to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to operate a new solid waste facility in Medford, New York. The new facility would export roughly half a million tons of solid waste annually through parts of my Sixth Congressional District via rail.¹ For years, pollution from inadequately containerized rail waste cars has threatened the quality of life and health of the communities it passes through. Without taking these concerns into account, this project threatens overburdened communities.

Since joining Congress in 2012, I have been fighting to strengthen the rules governing the waste-by-rail industry that has been a detriment to communities in Queens. Rail cars carrying construction and demolition waste, the same waste the Medford facility would export, have leaked contaminants and spilled debris into residential neighborhoods in Queens. Aligning with the NYSDEC's mission statement to "conserve, improve and protect New York's natural resources and environment and to prevent, abate and control water, land and air pollution," I ask that the concerns of these communities be given full and fair consideration when reviewing Peconic Environmental Services' application.

I encourage all involved parties, including NYSDEC, elected officials, and members of the affected communities, to ensure the best outcome for New Yorkers' health, environment, and quality of life. I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Grace Meng
Member of Congress

¹ "Facility Manual: C&D Transfer Station," H2M Architects + Engineers. Pg 6. August 2020.