



**Post Office Box 265
The Bronx, New York
10464-0265
www.bceq.org**

December 4, 2015

Ms. Debi Morey
USEPA - Office of Brownfield Cleanup and Redevelopment
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Letter of Support for the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) proposal to USEPA under the Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Communities program

Dear Ms. Morey:

The Bronx Council for Environmental Quality (BCEQ) is pleased to express our enthusiastic support for NJIT's proposal to USEPA under the Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Communities program.

Formed in 1971, BCEQ has sought to establish — as an *Inherent Human Right* — a sound, forward-looking environmental policy regarding an aesthetic, unpolluted, environment protecting a natural and historic heritage. We are a 501c.3 volunteer membership organization. Since 2001, we focused on developing connections to and along the Harlem River and created on-water access and activities in an effort to improve water quality. By 2009, we formed the Harlem River Working Group and received technical assistance from National Park Service Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program. In 2011, the Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWFP) announced efforts on seven pilot locations -- the Bronx & Harlem River Watersheds (New York) were chosen because both “locations had a strong restoration effort underway, spearheaded by local governments and community organizations.”

The New York State Brownfield Areas Opportunity (BOA) Program is the redevelopment planning arm of the Superfund/Brownfield Law. In 2004, we received a New York BOA award in the amount of \$109,877 for a Step 1: Pre-Nomination Study and later, an award in the amount of \$355,230 for a Step 2: Nomination Study, which is almost complete. The BOA along the Harlem River came out of BCEQ's previous Harlem River conferences and was developed in partnership with broad community participation. The Harlem River and its neighboring communities are poised for a long-overdue revival.

We look forward to partnering with NJIT on this project, and welcome their help and assistance with our work on the Harlem River. It will provide valuable environmental, social and ecological improvements along with critical flood protection. If you have any questions, we can be reached at 646-529-1990 (Karen) or 917-805-9566 (Dart).

We urge you to support their efforts and promise, as a community-based organization, to be actively engaged as needed.

Sincerely,

Karen Argenti

Karen Argenti

Co-Chairs, Water Committee, BCEQ

Dart Westphal

Dart Westphal