



**EDWARD P. ROMAINE**  
**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR**  
**FIRST DISTRICT**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

**January 27, 2012**

Contact: Bill Faulk  
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**ROMAINE WELCOMES OFFER OF ASSISTANCE FROM  
SENATOR SCHUMER TO SECURE PERMITS TO DREDGE STERLING HARBOR;  
“disappointed by the lack of response and disinterest” by Army Corps**

Yesterday, North Fork County Legislator Ed Romaine sent a letter to Senator Charles Schumer thanking him for offering assistance to secure permits to dredge Sterling Harbor in Greenport.

In his letter Romaine writes, “The dredging of Sterling Harbor is a priority and should be expedited by the Army Corps of Engineers. Our commercial fishing industry and those lives that may be saved by the hospital cannot afford any further delay.”

Sterling Harbor serves commercial fishing boats, a pack-out dock at the end of Monsell Place, and Eastern Long Island Hospital. The Army Corps of Engineers performed a survey of the area several years ago, which concluded that the mouth was narrowing.

Over the summer, Romaine addressed a letter directly to the Army Corps of Engineers asking for assistance, but it went unanswered. In addition, Legislator Romaine, Senator Ken LaValle, and Mayor Nyce held a news conference at the mouth of the harbor last fall to bring attention to the plight of the village. However, this too garnered no response from the federal government.

“I remain hopeful that with your renewed interest the Army Corps will make every effort to approve the dredging with all due haste,” Romaine concluded in his letter to Schumer. “I look forward to working with your office to get this done before Sterling Harbor becomes completely unnavigable.”

# SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE



## LEGISLATOR EDWARD P. ROMAINE FIRST DISTRICT

January 25, 2012

Hon. Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator  
145 Pine Lawn Road #300  
Melville, NY 11747

Dear Senator Schumer:

I appreciate you joining Congressman Bishop, State Senator LaValle, Mayor Nyce and me in calling on the Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Conservation to fast-track a permit application for the dredging of Sterling Harbor.

The entrance to Sterling Harbor has been filling more and more rapidly over the past several years. The extreme shoaling situation has made it more difficult for commercial fishing boats to enter the pack-out dock at the end of Monsell Place.

Several years ago a survey of the area was completed that concluded that the mouth was narrowing. However, it was determined that dredging would not be expedited merely to serve pleasure craft.

While the commercial dock was unused at the time of the survey – due to its destruction by fire – the dock is now under reconstruction. Furthermore, a new emergency dock has been dedicated for Eastern Long Island Hospital and five other commercial businesses are dependent upon Sterling Harbor.

The dredging of Sterling Harbor is a priority and should be expedited by the Army Corps of Engineers. Our commercial fishing industry and those lives that may be saved by the hospital cannot afford any further delay.

Sadly, my last letter to the Army Corps dated July 21, 2011 went unanswered. I am disappointed by the lack of response and apparent disinterest in this project. However, I remain hopeful that with your renewed interest the Army Corps will make every effort to

approve the dredging with all due haste. I look forward to working with your office to get this done before Sterling Harbor becomes completely unnavigable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward P. Romaine". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'E'.

Edward P. Romaine  
Suffolk County Legislator, First District

cc: Congressman Timothy Bishop  
State Senator Kenneth LaValle  
Mayor David Nyce, Village of Greenport