RE: <u>Bill S4214-2015</u> – Act to amend the Environmental Conservation Law, in relation to the operation of certain inactive wells

Dear Senators and Assemblypersons:

The Coalition of Nassau Civic Associations ("CONCA") agrees with the core objective and intent of Bill S4214-2015 (the "Bill"), namely, to protect Nassau County's sole source aquifer system.

However, the Bill seems to accede that New York City could still be allowed to reopen its shuttered wells, providing there is an environmental review. Comprehensive environmental studies evince over-pumping the Magothy and Lloyd Aquifers leads to irreversible problems including, but not limited to, saltwater intrusion.

Billions of gallons of water is taken each year from beneath Nassau County. Insufficient recharge will cause the saltwater-freshwater interface to migrate landward, eventually resulting in saltwater intrusion and respective well contamination. Nassau, having a population of over 1.3 million, is over-pumping our aquifers as it is. The aquifer system in Nassau cannot sustain pumping to an additional 2.3 million people in Queens. In fact, the wells in Queens were initially shuttered because pumping them was causing salt water intrusion in western and southwestern Nassau in the late '70s-early 80s; and to reopen them would undoubtedly produce the same result again today.

Therefore, in keeping with the objective and intent of the Bill, CONCA proposes it: (i) mandate the shuttered wells in Queens be forever abandoned; and likewise, (ii) forever prohibit the issuance of permits to re-open these wells

Further, by copy of this letter, we respectfully request that the NYS Assembly introduce similar legislation.

Very truly yours,