



**Independent
Power Producers**
of New York, Inc. (IPPNY)

19 Dove Street, Suite 302
Albany, NY 12210
phone: 518-436-3749
fax: 518-436-0369
www.ippny.org

Gavin J. Donohue, *President &
Chief Executive Officer*

February 22, 2006

Speaker Sheldon Silver
New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 932
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Speaker Sheldon Silver:

As you prepare the Senate's budget resolution, I strongly urge you to reject the proposal in the Executive Budget (contained within Part F of S.6459 / A.9559) to create new fees for private dam owners. These fees would be charged for permits to erect, construct, reconstruct or repair dams, and additional new annual fees would apply to dam ownership.

These fees will create an unfair and disproportionate burden on private dam owners and will exacerbate competitive disadvantages faced by these companies. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is responsible for overseeing the safety of private, municipal and state-owned dams; yet, the burden of this statewide regulatory effort is proposed to fall only on private dam owners. Other dam owners, such as the New York Power Authority, municipalities and farmers, would be exempt from these fees.

The State should identify other sources of funding to more fairly and adequately address the statewide issue of improving dam safety. In the interim, existing resources of the DEC should be reallocated to better align the Department's operations with this emerging State priority.

IPPNY and its Members urge you to reject these proposed fees on private dam owners, in order to avoid increasing costs for these companies and restricting their ability to provide essential services to consumers.

Sincerely,

Gavin J. Donohue

Cc: Assemblyman Farrell
Assemblyman Tonko
Assemblyman DiNapoli

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