



**U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development**  
New York State Office  
Jacob K. Javits Federal Building  
26 Federal Plaza  
New York, New York 10278-0068  
<http://www.hud.gov/local/nyn/>

June 20, 2016

Kevin J. Plunkett  
Deputy County Executive  
Office of the County Executive  
Michaelian Office Building  
White Plains, NY 10601

Dear Mr. Plunkett,

I'm writing in response to your June 17, 2016 letter regarding my June 6, 2016 meeting with the Westchester County Board of Legislators (BOL).

As I acknowledged at the time, I misspoke when I said HUD was unaware of the watershed issues in parts of Westchester County. My colleague Valerie Daniele immediately corrected the record by stating that HUD staff did in fact know about the restrictions, and that clarification was reiterated several times in the course of the meeting.

The watershed issue has nothing to do with why HUD did not approve Westchester's AI submissions: HUD rejected the County's zoning analysis because its conclusion that nothing in any zoning ordinance in Westchester County impeded housing choice was inconsistent with the County's own data and with federal law. Both the U.S. District Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit have upheld HUD's determination.

The policy point I made at the BOL meeting was that an AI can and should be a useful planning tool for communities to identify and mitigate impediments to broad housing choice. In the case of Pound Ridge, the work done by the Town, the court monitor and others helped connect the dots that the County's AI did not, and we are now engaged in fruitful interagency conversations about whether and how the Town's waste treatment capacity might be expanded without negatively impacting the watershed.

To suggest that the June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting presented some sort of "smoking gun" about the legitimacy of HUD's litigation against Westchester County defies logic, but what is most disappointing about your letter is the attempt to undermine the work my colleagues and I are doing directly

with towns in the County to support them in achieving their stated goals. The towns have been open to productive dialogues and collaboration, and it is my fervent hope that the momentum that has built with them over the past year-plus will continue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Holly M. Leicht". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Holly M. Leicht

Regional Administrator – New York/New Jersey