



INCORPORATED  
**VILLAGE OF ASHAROKEN**

ONE ASHAROKEN AVENUE  
NORTHPORT, NEW YORK 11768

Honorable Governor Kathy Hochul  
250 Veterans Memorial Highway  
Suite 2A-1  
Hauppauge, NY 11788

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August 1, 2024

Dear Governor Hochul:

Yesterday's Newsday reported that the Village of Baxter Estates was awarded \$7.7 million to prevent flooding of Shore Road. I applaud the State for its support of this important project and respectfully request that similar funding be provided to the Village of Asharoken for repair of its failed 30-year-old seawall.

The Asharoken seawall was built in 1997 to protect Asharoken Avenue, the only road to Eaton's Neck the home to over 2000 residents of the Village of Asharoken and the Town of Huntington. Thousands of cars pass by the seawall daily. Over the years the wall has been battered by many severe storms, has exceeded its expected lifespan, and is at the point of failure.

When the seawall fails, and it may do so during any future storms, all of Eaton's Neck will be separated from Long Island. Not only will the population be stranded, but their electricity, water, and internet will also be lost. The health and safety of all of the residents on Eaton's Neck will be imperiled.

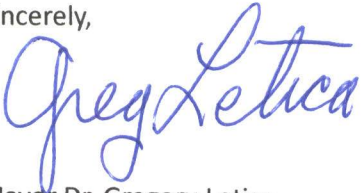
Unlike Baxter Estates, the seawall is exposed to severe wave energy from Long Island Sound. Additionally, Baxter Estates has multiple roads in and out of their community in comparison to Eaton's Neck where there is only one way in and out. If Asharoken Avenue is destroyed as a result of the failure of the seawall there is no alternate route other than boat to reach these people. We are on the precipice of disaster and need assistance immediately.

The Village has worked diligently with all levels of government, the ACOE, and the NYS DEC over the last twelve years to fix this problem. Recently, the Village was awarded a grant to provide engineering plans to reconstruct the entire wall and beach, but this plan is not expected to be completed until January 2026. It will be years after that before this full-scale plan can be implemented. Additionally, the Village was awarded an earmark from Senator Schumer for \$1 Million for a transitional repair of the most compromised section of the seawall. The transitional repair would likely include replacement of failing sheet steel and addition of more stones to the wall. This transition repair should allow the wall to remain structurally sound until a full reconstruction and beach restoration project is completed. Without it, the chances of the wall collapsing and the road being destroyed are very high. The Village is working

with the NYS DOT to start this project but the requirements of the earmark have made the progress very slow. Regardless, the \$1 million will not be enough money to solve the problem as the final cost may amount to several million dollars more. The Village is in the process of hiring an engineering firm to create a design and then will seek project bids for a final cost estimate.

If New York State felt that the problem with Shore Road merited financial support then NYS should have no reservations about providing the same funding to Asharoken. Our situation is much more dire and affects far more people. I look forward to working with you to find the needed funding and I hope that one day very shortly you will visit Asharoken with the money we need to protect the residents of Eaton's Neck. Their lives depend on it. The time for action is now.

Sincerely,



Mayor Dr. Gregory Letica

Village of Asharoken

