

**JOHN J. BONACIC**  
**SENATOR, 42ND DISTRICT**

**CHAIR**  
**COMMITTEES ON**  
**JUDICIARY**

**RACING, GAMING & WAGERING**



**THE SENATE**  
**STATE OF NEW YORK**

**COMMITTEES**  
**ALCOHOLISM**  
**BANKS**  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**  
**FINANCE**  
**HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION**  
**& COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**  
**RULES**

**DEPUTY REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE LEADER**  
**FOR STATE/FEDERAL RELATIONS**

May 2, 2018

Mr. James F. Hall  
Executive Director  
Palisades Interstate Parks Commission  
Administration Building  
Bear Mountain, NY 10911-0427

Dear Mr. Hall:

I am writing to you on behalf of my constituents who have expressed extreme concern over the proposed dewatering of Tillson Lake, located in the Town of Gardiner. I have received multiple emails, phone calls, and letters from residents of the area, as well as the elected Town officials who all unanimously oppose your proposal.

I strongly urge you to reconsider your decision to dewater this hidden gem. As you know, in the 1960's and 70's the lake looked very different with a roller skating rink, pavilion and snack stand; it served as the very epicenter for a community. Residents still reminisce over time spent at the lake with family that has long since gone on, sharing stories of their youth. Today, Tillson Lake is a serene retreat that locals use for kayaking, hiking, bird watching, swimming, picnicking and fishing. This lake is home to various aquatic life that would not be able to sustain in the small stream that will be left once the lake is drained. We will lose the king fisher and water fowl that call the lake home.

As you know, the announcement your office sent to the residents of the area specifically sighted that the Commission had failed to secure funding required to repair this damn. I am disappointed that the Palisades Interstate Parks Commission (PIPC), Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) failed to make any effort to secure funding in the budget, not just this year, but in any year. While the letter cites a cost of \$7-\$9 million to repair the dam, it fails to inform the residents of what the studies, permits and ultimate removal of the dam will cost.

When the state acquired this land, they ultimately took responsibility for preserving this beautiful piece of The 'Gunks'. The apparent "off-loading" of the responsibility of maintaining the lake for the current and future users is unacceptable.



In closing, I ask that you hold a public meeting in conjunction with DEC and allow the residents to come forward. This community banded together in the early 1980's to save this lake and they are uniting to do it again. I ask that you listen to what they have to say, and explore any and all options to save this lake for our future before tearing down the dam.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John J. Bonacic". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "J".

JOHN J. BONACIC  
State Senator

JJB/tad

cc: Rose Harvey, Commissioner, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
Basil Seggos, Commissioner, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
Kelly Turturro, Region 3 Director, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
Marybeth Majestic, Supervisor, Town of Gardiner