



**Senate Bill 726 – Bay Restoration Fund & Authorized Uses
Decommission of Wastewater Treatment Lagoon**

Jennifer J. Falcinelli, Burgess Pro Tem
Town of Middleton

Good afternoon, Chair Feldman and Committee Members:

I have served as a town commissioner for 28 years and as chair of Middleton's Water & Sewer committee for over 20 years. Middleton is a small town, with only 5000 residents and 1,700 water & sewer accounts. It is a constant challenge to fund needed infrastructure improvements with such a small customer base.

In 2000 we funded, without grants, a 4-million-dollar, state of the art, East Wastewater Treatment Plant. 20 years later, in 2020, our residents paid off this debt. Now, we are facing a \$40 million dollar ENR upgrade with at least \$10 million dollars unfunded.

This would almost triple our debt-per customer. Our residents cannot afford this and we have a fiducial responsibility to our residents who just paid for a wastewater treatment plant.

Middletown currently has 5.2 million dollars in long term debt due to a new reservoir and water main replacements. We invest in our infrastructure, take pride in our town, are pro-active, and do not believe entering into a consent order is proper planning.

We also have other critical infrastructure needs that need to be funded in the future. The town of Middletown and our residents cannot afford \$10 million dollars in long-term debt.

The Burgess & Commissioners are asking for your help and support!
Middletown has unique challenges in this ENR upgrade and the increased
subsidy in Senate Bill 726 will help defray some of the costs.

Removing infrastructure from a floodplain, to prevent future catastrophes, is
100% necessary and is 100% logical that the Bay Restoration Fund pay 100%
of these costs.

Thank you,
Jennifer Falcinelli, Burgess Pro Tem