

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF LANSING SUPERVISOR TO SIGN MUNICIPAL COALITION LETTER IN OPPOSITION TO NYSDEC-PROPOSED ITHACA AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY PERMIT MODIFICATIONS, AND IN SUPPORT OF STATE INVESTMENT IN WATER QUALITY MITIGATIONS IDENTIFIED IN THE “CAYUGA LAKE TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD FOR PHOSPHORUS.”

RESOLUTION 25-

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WHEREAS, the Ithaca Area Wastewater Treatment Facility (IAWWTF), located at the south end of Cayuga Lake, is a 13.1 million gallons-per-day-capacity treatment plant owned and operated by the City of Ithaca, the Town of Ithaca and the Town of Dryden; and,

WHEREAS, The Town of Lansing indirectly utilizes treatment at IAWWTF, through an agreement with the Village of Cayuga Heights and,

WHEREAS, IAWWTF owners are currently engaged in the planning phase of a multi-year capital improvement project (CIP), focusing on the modernization and replacement of aged and failing infrastructure, with out-of-pocket costs divided among owners and passed through to non-owner-users, including the Town of Lansing, via independently negotiated agreements based on usage; and,

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) is proposing discharge permit modifications to include limits for ammonia and nitrite, which can be harmful to aquatic life in high concentrations; and,

WHEREAS, the aforementioned modifications are being considered solely based on modeling and have not been corroborated by ambient water quality and biological monitoring near the IAWWTF discharge or elsewhere in the southern Cayuga Lake waterbody segment; and,

WHEREAS, the membrane bioreactor technology required to meet the proposed permit limit for nitrite would add 100 million dollars to the cost of the original CIP, which would impose an enormous, unsustainable, and unjustifiable financial burden on ratepayers in the stakeholder municipalities, including the Town of Lansing, for the indefinite future and would achieve limited, if any, environmental benefit; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Lansing, having reviewed the attached letter authored on behalf of the six municipal signatories to the 2003 Intermunicipal Wastewater

Agreement, supports the positions and recommendations articulated therein, and authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign in representation of this body.

The question of the adoption of such proposed Resolution was duly motioned by Councilperson _____ duly seconded by Councilperson _____, and put to a roll call vote with the following results:

Councilperson Judy Drake –

Councilperson Christine Montague –

Supervisor Ruth Groff –

Councilperson Laurie Hemmings –

Councilperson Joseph Wetmore –

Accordingly, the foregoing Resolution was approved, carried, and duly adopted on September 17, 2025.