

SUSTAINABLE LONG ISLAND

Advancing the Economy, Environment and Equity

Feb. 22, 2007

Newsday
2345 Pinelawn Road
Melville, NY 11747
Att: Editor

To the editor:

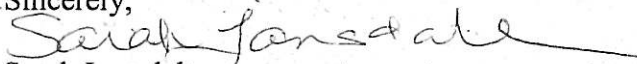
In your recent Editorial "Dig We Must" [February 18, 2007], Newsday stated that Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy "has chosen wisely to focus on sewers for a handful of areas where major development is expected."

While Mr. Levy and Newsday deserve much credit for promoting the development of a more expansive sewer system, there are major questions about equity that the editorial misses. By restricting sewer expansion to just a "handful of areas" of major growth—identified by the Suffolk County Department of Planning in an August 2006 report as the Route 110 Office-Industrial Corridor, Sagtikos Regional Development Zone, Yaphank, Riverhead and Stony Brook High Tech Campus—communities such as Wyandanch that have been historically left out of the region's prosperity are once again neglected.

Suffolk County must abandon the area-by-area approach that perpetuates existing inequities. Transparent standards need to be created that rank the viability of sustainable economic revitalization and promote equitable development. The focus must shift from giving attention only to those areas deemed worthy of development to evaluating underserved, already-developed areas that have community-supported sustainable development plans in place.

Sewers are integral to suburban revitalization; without them, blighted downtowns have no chance of encouraging business growth, creating new jobs, and developing affordable housing options while preserving open space. Residents of less prosperous Long Island towns deserve far more consideration than they've received until now.

Sincerely,


Sarah Lansdale
Executive Director
Sustainable Long Island

