

# **NASSAU-SUFFOLK SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION**

## **TESTIMONY**

**MARY JO O'HAGAN, VICE PRESIDENT  
NASSAU-SUFFOLK SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION**

**NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

**OCTOBER 18, 2010**

**IN THE MATTER OF  
ITEM # 589  
Ordinance to Establish Services Charges for Sewer Services  
for Previously Exempt Users**

**Theodore Roosevelt Executive & Legislative Building  
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Mineola, N.Y.**

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The move by County Executive Edward Mangano to impose a fee on school district water consumption is yet another attempt to off load the County's governmental responsibilities onto Nassau's school districts and the local property tax.

The County Executive's rationale that a surcharge calculated on a measurement of water intake at school facilities would equate to an accurate measurement of outflow into the County's sewer system is problematic at best. Irrigation of grounds and athletic fields represents a substantial portion of school district water consumption and that water does not enter the County's sewers. Having no ability to disaggregate their water intake, school districts would be subject to arbitrary costs that would eventually end up on the local property tax.

School facilities and grounds are utilized extensively by the general public. In many communities, it is the school athletic fields that serve local youth organizations, adult leagues and after-school programs. Long after the school day ends, our buildings remain open for community groups unable to access any County venues. It is disingenuous at best to infer that it is school children who should be held responsible for all waste entering the County's sewer systems from school buildings and grounds.

Much attention of late has been on the need for greater consolidation of governmental services. For over two years school district representatives have been meeting with County staff in an effort to reduce the costs imposed by overlapping levels of government.

The Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association remains committed to the mission of identifying and mitigating the duplicative costs of multi-layers of government that unnecessarily make their way onto the local property tax. In looking to create an additional layer of government to extract new costs from other layers of government, the County Executive appears to be going in the opposite direction.

**Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association urges the County Legislature to reject ITEM #589.**