

*County of Jefferson*  
*Board of Legislators*

Philip N. Reed, Sr.  
Legislator, District 3

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March 2, 2022

BPAM NEPA,  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
24000 Avila Road, Suite 5020  
Laguna Nigel, CA 92677

Attn: Mr. John Petrilla, Acting Environmental Branch Chief

Dear Mr. Petrilla:

I am writing to share my own and my constituents' opposition to the application to build the proposed U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency's new U.S. Border Patrol Station on Blind Bay at Fisher's Landing, Town of Orleans, NY. The proposed complex would include many facilities, infrastructure and constant night lighting, all of which would adversely affect tourism as well as the fragile environment of the St. Lawrence River and the Thousand Island region: the site should be developed as residential in keeping with the vicinity, and maintained on the tax rolls.

The draft Environmental Assessment finds no significant impact; however, there are both open and State and Federally designated wetlands around the proposed site. These areas are critical as spawning grounds and nurseries critical for the survival of muskellunge. Over 50 other fish species have been recorded at Blind Bay, including NYS Species of Concern and Species of Conservation Need. These fish hold significant local ecological and economic value.

Any dredging, filling, or waste disposal could irreparably change the river bottom. Other human disturbance such as road construction or unlimited motor boat access development would fragment the wetland and severely harm the spawning and nursery habitat.

I respectfully urge that this facility not be built in Blind Bay. In order to avoid the negative impact on the river, please consider an inland site rather than a coastal one; whereby the water could be accessed through contract with existing marinas.

Sincerely,

Legislator Philip N. Reed, Sr.  
District 3

cc: NYS Congresswoman Elise Stefanik  
US Senator Chuck Schumer  
US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand  
NYS Senator Patty Ritchie  
Assemblyman Mark Walczyk