

Rothman Secures Funds for Rutherford Sewer Project

November 8, 2001

Rothman Secures Funds for Rutherford Sewer Project

House Approves \$200,000 to Conduct Study of Best Method to Improve Aging System

Washington, DC -- Congressman Steve Rothman used his position as a member of the House Appropriations Committee to secure \$200,000 for Rutherford to conduct a study that will evaluate the borough's sewer collection system and determine the most cost effective approach to improve the aging system.

The U.S. House of Representatives today approved the Veterans Affairs - Housing and Urban Development (VA-HUD) Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2002, which includes the funds. Rothman contacted budget leaders over the past several months to ensure that funds for the Rutherford sewer study would be included in the bill.

"Rutherford's sewer system was constructed in the early part of the 20th Century, and is in desperate need of repairs to prevent groundwater from seeping into the sewer pipes," Rothman said. "A substantial portion of Rutherford's sewage treatment is of relatively pure groundwater, costing Rutherford hundreds of thousands of dollars per year in unnecessary sewage treatment expenses. This study will determine the most efficient and cost effective way to prevent groundwater infiltration into the sewer pipes."

"As an older community, it is important that we continue to address our infrastructure needs," Rutherford Mayor Bernadette McPherson said. "Much of the Borough's sanitary sewer collection system was constructed in the early 1900s, and improvements are needed to minimize groundwater infiltration and inflow. This study will enable us to identify where these problems exist and take the necessary corrective action. I am very grateful to Congressman Rothman for his assistance in securing this sizeable grant."

Due to the deterioration of clay pipes, a large volume of groundwater finds its way into Rutherford's sewer collection system. Consequently, a substantial portion of Rutherford sewage treatment costs are unnecessarily incurred.

The VA-HUD Appropriations bill is one of 13 spending measures Congress is required to pass each year. Following Senate approval, which is anticipated in the coming days, the bill will head to the White House where the president is expected to sign it into law.

###

[Go back](#)