



Friends of Times Beach Nature Preserve

C/O Burney 83 Salem Street Buffalo New York 14220

www.friendsoftimesbeachnp.org

October 15, 2015

Dear ECHDC;

Thank-you for your concerns and comments. This is a follow-up to our letter of October 13, 2015. We suggest the following potential solutions regarding our concerns:

1. Respect Governor Cuomo's initiative regarding "Lights Out New York", and turn out the light display on the Connecting Terminal during the times identified by the initiative. (April 15-May 31, and August 15- November 15.) This would include an approximate 2 week delay in the launching of the project, moving it from November 1, to November 15.
2. We further request that the light display on the Connecting Terminal be turned out starting at dusk, and remain turned out until dawn during these time frames. We have ample evidence (radar) that migrating birds are moving at the nature preserve and throughout the outer harbor and region starting at dusk during these important migratory times. This exceeds the Governor's initiative and because of the special circumstances of a nature preserve adjacent to this project, it demonstrates both leadership by the ECHDC and a strong commitment to avian conservation. This is fundamental to the Times Beach Nature Preserve and the Niagara River Corridor Globally Significant Important Bird Area contexts.
3. We further request that the annual winter migration of gulls and waterfowl starting in late November and continuing into January be recognized and evaluated relative to Outer Harbor projects and plans, including lighting. This annual migration, not recognized in the Governor's statewide initiative, is unique to our Niagara River Corridor and is of global significance. We are not sure that the Connecting Terminal light display will impact this migration, but it would be valuable to have a scientific determination so that we can best address concerns about conservation of this important migration.
4. We further request that any continued or future development projects and initiatives, plans and implementations of projects include a written environmental assessment of the potential impacts on the Nature Preserve and the wildlife including birds and pollinators, including migration and breeding, that the Times Beach Nature Preserve protects.
5. We further request that the Friends of Times Beach Nature Preserve participate in any and all environmental assessments so that we will not have future conflicts with the ECHDC on further development of the Outer Harbor that we are concerned will have a negative impact on the nature preserve. We advocate for good neighbors!

We would be pleased to discuss this with the ECHDC.
Jay Burney, Friends of Times Beach Nature Preserve