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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

September 3, 2009

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

I am writing in support of the Harlem River Working Group's application for funding through the National Park Service's Trails and Conservation Assistance Program under the U.S. Department of Interior. This funding will be used for technical assistance to help clean and improve access to the Harlem River.

The Harlem River is an eight mile waterway that runs between the Bronx and Manhattan. The Harlem River Working Group has long been active in redeveloping the shoreline to provide better access to the river and to increase opportunities for recreation and tourism. The Harlem River Valley at one time was full of parks and recreation but over the years has suffered from the construction of new roadways, rail lines and industry in the area. With this funding, the Harlem River Working Group plans to redevelop the many parks along the river's shore, unleashing the area's potential for recreation. This project is important for not only City residents looking for natural beauty to enjoy, but also as a strategy for the region's economy to grow with a boost in tourism.

I ask that you please give this application your full consideration. If you have any question, or desire further information, please do not hesitate to contact my staff member Jon Cardinal at (202) 224-4451.

Sincerely yours,



Kirsten E. Gillibrand