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Gary L. Ackerman
Congress of the United States
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February 21, 2012

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Judith A. Enck, Regional Administrator
Region 2, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
290 Broadway
New York, NY 10007-1866

Dear Administrator Enck,

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Residents for a More Beautiful Port Washington to be considered for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 2 Environmental Quality Awards. Residents for a More Beautiful Port Washington – also known as “Residents” – is a non-profit organization in my Congressional district that has worked for over 40 years to protect and improve the environment of Port Washington, New York and neighboring areas on Long Island, New York. With nearly 1,000 members, Residents seeks to involve and educate the local community through programs and initiatives in four main focus areas: environmental education, policy and planning, environmental health, and quality of life.

Since 1968 – interestingly, before the EPA had even been established – Residents has worked to take action on environmental issues in the Port Washington community. Residents’ legacy of advocacy and service is exceedingly worthy of recognition, and I am pleased to highlight several of the organization’s accomplishments and activities from the past year:

- Residents worked with second and third grade students to provide a hands-on environmental education experience and teach the next generation about the importance of environmental conservation. Second graders participated in Arbor Day celebration that included tree-planting at each of the Port Washington School District’s elementary campuses, as well as interactive outdoor lessons that tied into the students’ existing curriculum. Third graders visited a local pond to learn about the local ecosystem.
- Through a partnership with local government and business organizations, Residents organized community clean-up events that allowed volunteers of all ages to contribute to the maintenance and beautification of public spaces. “Clean Green Main Street” activities include sweeping sidewalks, picking up litter, weeding, mulching, and planting.
- Together with the Greater Port Washington Business Improvement District, Residents sponsored a monthly “Golden Storefront Award,” given to the local Port Washington business that keeps the outside of their store free of litter and weeds, takes care of

nearby trees, maintains an attractive and unobstructed storefront, and generally works to keep the community clean and beautiful. Any resident of Port Washington is eligible to nominate and vote for their favorite storefront each month.

- Residents worked closely with local and state government officials, businesses, economic development organizations, and civic groups to advocate for the ongoing community goal of making Main Street – which runs through the heart of Port Washington’s downtown business district – a safer, sustainable, efficient, and more beautiful place to live and work. Among the planned improvements for Main Street are alternative transportation options and new streetscape designs.
- “Takin’ It To The Streets”, Residents’ annual gala, raised money for the organization’s programs and initiatives, celebrated new plans for community improvements, and honored local leaders for their work in making Port Washington a better and greener place to live.

I am proud of Residents’ legacy of protecting the environment and improving the quality of life in Port Washington, but I am especially proud that they do so by getting members of the community involved in their efforts. I believe that Residents for a More Beautiful Port Washington embodies the spirit of EPA’s Environmental Quality Awards and I hope you will give this nomination your most favorable consideration. Please keep me apprised of the status of these awards. If there is any additional information that I can provide, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Gary L. Ackerman
Member of Congress

GLA:jrg