



1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington DC 20229

**U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection**

**April 14, 2022**

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

This is in response to your March 22, 2022, correspondence to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) regarding the proposed construction of a new station in the U.S. Border Patrol's (USBP) Wellesley Island Area of Responsibility.

CBP is proposing the construction of a new 48,000 square foot Border Patrol Station (BPS) that will accommodate current and near-future staff and operational requirements, with modernized technology and infrastructure to fulfill USBP's border security mission along the international border with Canada. With most of its patrol area on the water, immediate or adjacent access to waterways is an important component in the BPS site selection process to ensure mission readiness and adequate agent response times. CBP acknowledges your opposition to the Fisher's Landing site in the Town of Orleans, New York.

CBP conducted initial scoping in July 2021, and received seven responses from federal, state and local agencies. A Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared to evaluate the environmental impacts of the proposed action to the Blind Bay area, in compliance with the *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA). The Draft EA was released for public review and comment from February 9, 2022 through March 10, 2022. During this timeframe, CBP received approximately 1,000 comments, most of which expressed opposition to the proposed action location. Cited rationale for this opposition varied, including potential impacts on Blind Bay and its aquatic resources; visual impacts on historic districts and properties; disturbance to natural and biological resources from the CBP facility, vehicles, boats, and lighting; zoning and local property tax impacts; and potential impacts on residential development, local tourism, and recreational opportunities.

CBP is in the process of reviewing all comments to understand and weigh the issues they raise. CBP remains in the deliberation phase; a final decision on the proposed location has not been made. Additional research and analysis are required to address concerns raised in public comments, including the possible consideration of alternative project locations that meet site selection criteria. If alternative project sites are considered, the public will also have the opportunity to review and comment on those locations.

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If you need further assistance, please contact my office at (202) 344-1760 or by email at [OCAInquiry@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:OCAInquiry@cbp.dhs.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Talton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stephanie A. Talton  
Deputy Assistant Commissioner  
Office of Congressional Affairs