

THE MOHAWK RIVER BASIN INITIATIVE – ORGANIZING FOR ACTION

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The 150-mile historic Mohawk River remains a flood threat to the entire Mohawk River basin, is wild and dirty, and blocks out potential economic development from those who would build but won't take the risk. We cannot tolerate this any longer. The communities along the river can be developed and restored to create a world-class destination forever. New York State has begun developing Smart Growth programs that link Economical Development, Environmental issues and Tourism together. This Mohawk River program is a natural for Smart Growth implementation. The environmental issues here are intolerable and known to be in that condition.

The problem is simple in my view. The Mohawk River Valley has NOT had a powerful and active coalition of organizations and residents who are willing to forge a power team and demand action NOW. We don't need more New York State study commissions or promises. Conversely the new team has to fight with intellect and a mission-focused strategy. We are diverse in nature, chopped up by county lines, have major differences in priorities between the east, the west and the middle, don't know how to organize a major team than encompasses every aspect of this rivers' life and then make a Plan and take it to the right places of decision-making with full affect!

Bottom line is that this Mohawk River has been neglected and orphaned by the agencies responsible. We will no longer tolerate being an orphan and demand equal resources from state and federal governments as well as private investment so that a cohesive plan can be executed and done on a fast-track plan.