

servants, but the effort should not stop there. Many times we've read that because of state law, our politicians have their hands tied in effecting change to the pay structure and pension benefits.

I believe we should change state law to forbid including overtime, accumulated sick days and saved vacation days in pension calculations.

*Bob Cavaliere  
Port Jefferson Station*

### **Sewage outflow pipe ill-considered**

The Bay Park sewage treatment plant has long been a source of pollution of Long Island's western bays. In "Grab this chance for ocean pipe" [Editorial, Feb. 24], Newsday favored building an outflow pipe into the ocean.

It is crucial to repair the plant. However, an ocean outflow pipe would transfer treated sewage directly to the

ocean, which is vulnerable to excessive nitrogen loading. Chlorine and pharmaceutical products, not completely removed from the sewage, could adversely affect marine life. In addition to the environmental harm, the pollution from the pipe could prohibit recreational use of our coastal waters.

With an ocean outflow pipe, millions of gallons of treated fresh water would bypass the bays. Are the impacts known? There is some evidence that the ecology of Barnegat Bay in New Jersey was adversely affected by the rerouting of outfall from the bay to the ocean.

Before hundreds of millions of dollars are spent, alternatives should be studied. Land disposal of treated wastewater might be a solution.

*Jim Brown  
Island Park*

**Editor's note:** The writer is the president of the South Shore Audubon Society.

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