



NEW YORK LEGISLATIVE SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS

Senator Joseph Griffo ♦ Assembly Member Aileen Gunther ♦ Assembly Member Clifford Crouch ♦ Assembly Member Colin Schmitt

April 17, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

Thank you for your leadership as you respond to the evolving conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic. We understand the profound weight of the challenges you are faced with overcoming on a daily basis, and offer our assistance. As Co-Chairs of the bipartisan and bicameral New York Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus, we work collaboratively to protect and advance the interests of New York's 2.1 million sportsmen and women, and offer our subject matter expertise on items in the COVID-19 response that intersect with these issues, and conservation generally. To that end, we write to you today regarding the recent decision to close boat ramps and marinas throughout the state of New York, and suggest a more localized response as an alternative path forward.

With public safety being the utmost priority, and in keeping with the guidelines outlined through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), we contend that a more nuanced and localized response to safety precautions at boat ramps and marinas is necessary. The closing of boat ramps and marinas for the entire state will severely hinder peoples' ability to fish, access the outdoors, and recreate in a healthy environment. Fishing, in particular, is an ideal recreational activity at this time, through which participants naturally keep safe distances between one another while procuring meals for their families and enjoying the associated mental and physical health benefits of being outdoors. Now, quite possibly more than ever, New York's residents need the ability to access safe and healthy recreational activities; closing boat ramps and marinas throughout the state in reaction to localized issues does not allow our constituents that opportunity. We therefore request your consideration in amending your decision, in acknowledgement of the starkly different societal conditions that exist between different areas of the state, as well as the severe negative implications this statewide approach may have on rural communities.

During particularly difficult times, sportsmen and women often turn to some of America's most time-honored traditions as an avenue of escape. We humbly suggest that should closures be found to be necessary, that they be made in a manner that addresses the particular issue at hand while allowing access and opportunities to remain available for sportsmen and women in other areas of the state. As Co-Chairs of the New York Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus we offer our assistance in working alongside you and your Administration towards this goal.



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Thank you for your time and consideration on this critical matter. Should you require additional information on this, or other sportsmen-related topics, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Senator Joseph Griffo

Assembly Member Aileen Gunther

Assembly Member Clifford Crouch

Assembly Member Colin Schmitt