



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Robert G. Ortt

## New York State Senator Rob Ortt, Assembly Members Mike Norris, and Angelo Morinello Advocate for Lockport Cave Legislation

ROBERT G. ORTT June 12, 2024

| ISSUE: **PUBLIC SAFETY**



**Lockport, NY** – Today, New York State Senator Rob Ortt, alongside Assembly Members Mike Norris and Angello Morinello, discussed the passage of Senate Bill [S.9241](#) and Assembly Bill [A.10399](#).

The legislative action clearly defines that the Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation is tasked with the oversight of the Lockport Cave and similar businesses.

The bill also provides that an inspector from the Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation will at least annually inspect any vessel operated on privately or publicly owned underground, non-navigable waterways with no navigable inlet or outlet that carry passengers for compensation. In addition, the bill also makes technical corrections and related provisions, and adds penalties for non-compliance.

“In the course of the investigation of this tragic incident, it came to light that there is no state agency tasked with overseeing these types of attractions. One of my top priorities this legislative session was to change that,” **said Senator Ortt**. “With the passage of this legislation, we’re ensuring patrons can safely enjoy this unique attraction in the City of Lockport and I’d like to thank my colleagues in the Senate as well as in the Assembly for passing this important legislation.”

“This legislation closes a blind spot in safety oversight. I’m proud to have worked with Senator Ortt, Assemblyman Morinello and my colleagues in the state legislature to pass this common-sense bipartisan bill to improve safety for consumers and operators along the Canal,” **said Assemblyman Mike Norris**.

“Public safety is always priority number one. It is important to allow the suspension of an issued certificate of inspection if the operation poses a threat to public safety. This bill will create much safer conditions for passengers, vessel operators, and crew,” **said Assemblyman Angello Morinello**.

The bill received wide support in both houses and now heads to the Governor’s office.

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#### RELATED LEGISLATION

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## 2023-A10399

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- Introduced
- - In Committee Assembly
  - In Committee Senate
- - On Floor Calendar Assembly
  - On Floor Calendar Senate
- - Passed Assembly
  - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
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Relates to duty to inspect vessels operated on non-navigable underground waters

May 21, 2024

Assembly Floor Calendar

Do you support this bill?