



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Thomas F. O'Mara

## **Legislation approved to permanently allow rifle hunting in area counties**

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Albany, N.Y.—The New York State Legislature has approved legislation sponsored by Senator Tom O'Mara (R-C, Big Flats), Assemblyman Phil Palmesano (R-C-I, Corning) and Assemblyman Chris Friend (R-Big Flats) to permanently authorize rifle hunting in Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben and Yates counties. The measures (S.5105/A.7380, Schuyler County; and S.5106/A.7381, for Chemung, Steuben and Yates counties) were approved last week by the Senate and given final legislative approval by the Assembly earlier today.

They must be signed by Governor Andrew Cuomo before becoming law.

In a joint statement the area legislators said, "We've had a safe and successful experience with rifle hunting locally, and we should make it a permanent part of the region's economic and recreational landscape. A rifle hunting season provides valuable benefits for local counties."

In 2008, state lawmakers authorized rifle hunting for deer and bear in Chemung, Steuben and Yates counties until October 2011. A local rifle hunting season was established in Schuyler County the following year, also until this October.

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