



May 7, 2012

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
New York State  
State Capitol  
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We write to respectfully request your immediate attention to an issue of great concern and to ask your assistance for farmers in New York affected by the recent Spring freeze/thaw cycle that has irreparably damaged many fruit crops. We urge you to petition the federal government to make a federal disaster declaration for areas that have recently had their fruit crops damaged significantly by this unusual weather.

As you may know, an unanticipated early thaw in March and April this year that was followed by an extended frost period in mid-April, and then complicated by a successive freeze, has caused significant damage to fruit crops in New York. In particular, fruit crops including grapes, apples, sour cherries, peaches, apricots, and strawberries have experienced extensive damage in multiple growing areas.

Preliminary damage estimates indicate that losses will meet the thresholds for disaster assistance in many areas already. The Federal Farm Services Agency continues to gather statewide data on losses as it becomes available. Specifically, we have been made aware of severe damage in multiple counties of Western New York including Wayne, Niagara, Orleans, Erie and Chautauqua, as well as in some Finger Lakes areas, the North Country, Central New York, the Hudson Valley and parts of Long Island.

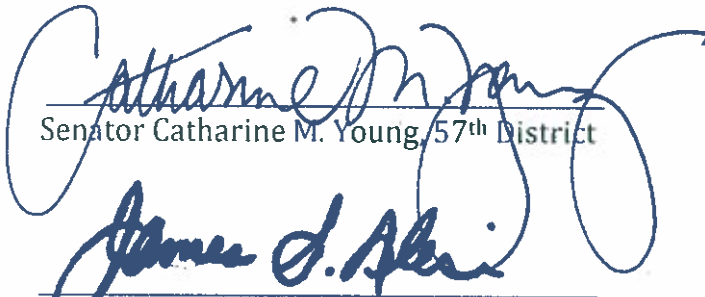
Although there still will be fruit crops in New York this year from our growers, they will be greatly diminished. Loss estimates are likely to rise as the growing season progresses and evidence of further crop damage emerges. Farmers will need help to deal with this year's losses and to mitigate their impact on out-year business operations and cash flow.

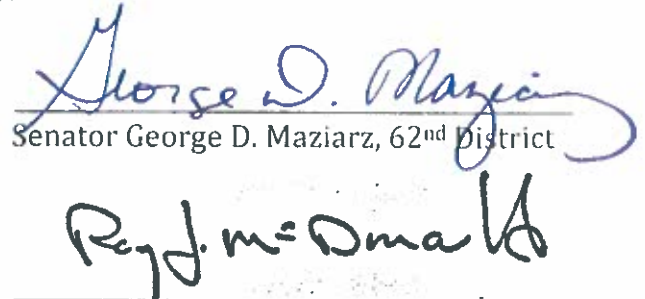
Federal assistance in the wake of this damage is critical to ensuring the viability of our fruit crop industry. As you know, our agriculture sector is vital to the economy of our

state and therefore we respectfully request your assistance to seek this federal disaster as soon as possible in order to avoid devastating economic consequences. We stand ready to assist you in helping our fruit growers.

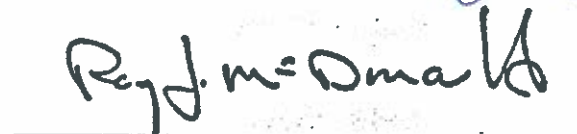
Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you on this critically important issue. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you need additional information or assistance in such efforts.


Sincerely,

  
Senator Catharine M. Young, 57<sup>th</sup> District

  
Senator George D. Maziarz, 62<sup>nd</sup> District

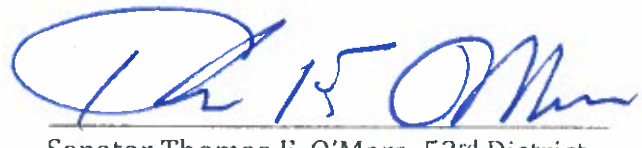
  
Senator James S. Alesi, 55<sup>th</sup> District

  
Senator Roy J. McDonald, 43<sup>rd</sup> District

  
Senator Greg Ball, 40<sup>th</sup> District

  
Senator Michael F. Nozzolio, 54<sup>th</sup> District

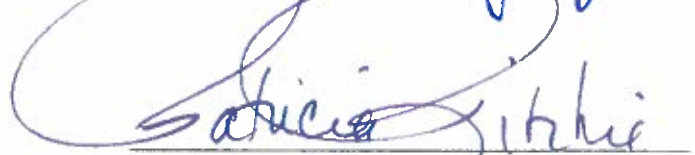
  
Senator John J. Bonacic, 42<sup>nd</sup> District

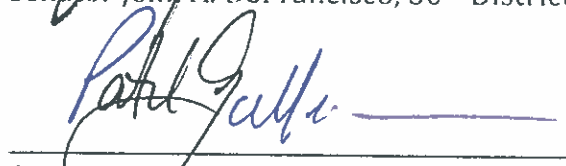
  
Senator Thomas F. O'Mara, 53<sup>rd</sup> District


  
Senator David Carlucci, 38<sup>th</sup> District

  
Senator Michael Ranzenhofer, 61<sup>st</sup> District

  
Senator John A. DeFrancisco, 50<sup>th</sup> District

  
Senator Patty Ritchie, 48<sup>th</sup> District

  
Senator Patrick M. Gallivan, 59<sup>th</sup> District

  
Senator Joseph E. Robach, 56<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Mark Grisanti, 60<sup>th</sup> District




Senator Stephen M. Saland, 41<sup>st</sup> District



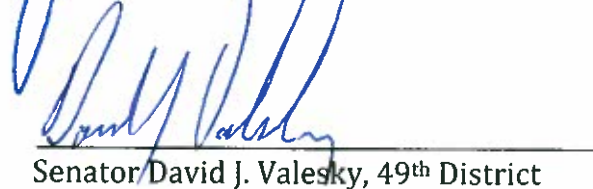
Senator Kenneth P. LaValle, 1<sup>st</sup> District



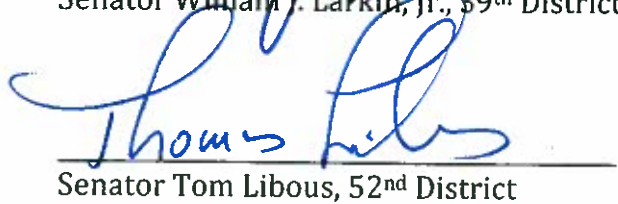
Senator James L. Seward, 51<sup>st</sup> District



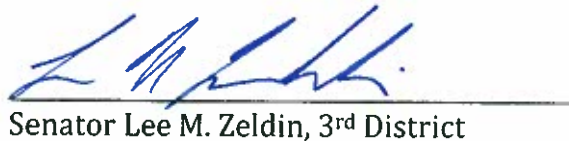
Senator William J. Larkin, Jr., 39<sup>th</sup> District



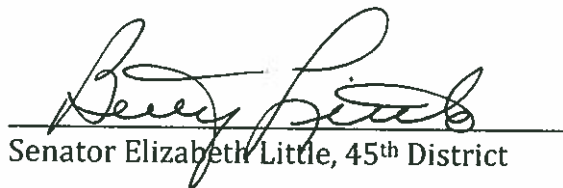
Senator David J. Valesky, 49<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Tom Libous, 52<sup>nd</sup> District



Senator Lee M. Zeldin, 3<sup>rd</sup> District



Senator Elizabeth Little, 45<sup>th</sup> District