



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.

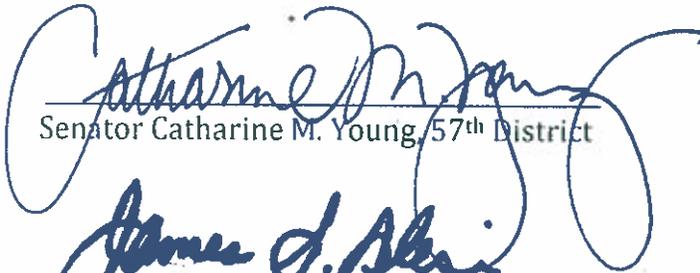
Although there still will be fruit crops in New York this year from our growers, they will be greatly diminished. Loss estimates are likely to rise as the growing season progresses and evidence of further crop damage emerges. Farmers will need help to deal with this year's losses and to mitigate their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

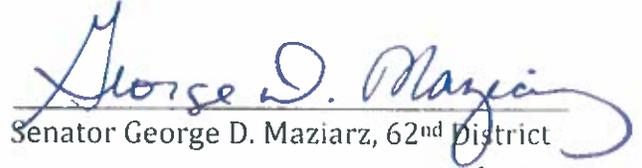
state and therefore we respectfully request your assistance to seek this federal disaster as soon as possible in order to avoid devastating economic consequences. We stand ready to assist you in helping our fruit growers.

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,



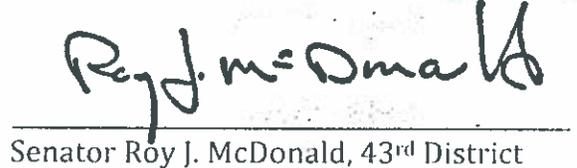
Senator Catharine M. Young, 57th District



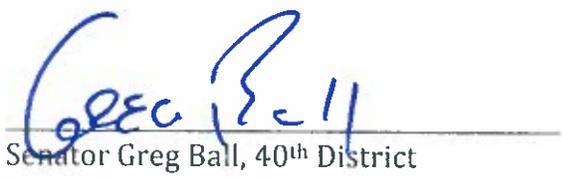
Senator George D. Maziarz, 62nd District



Senator James S. Alesi, 55th District



Senator Roy J. McDonald, 43rd District



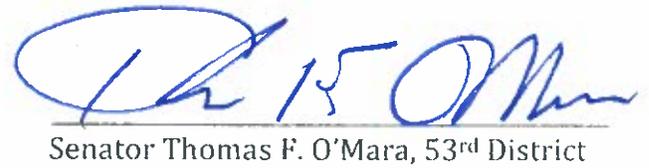
Senator Greg Ball, 40th District



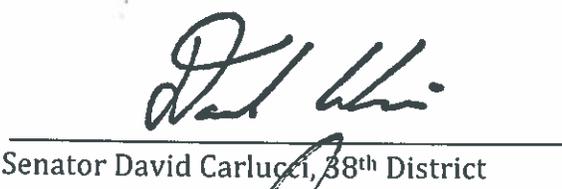
Senator Michael F. Nozzolio, 54th District



Senator John J. Bonacic, 42nd District



Senator Thomas F. O'Mara, 53rd District



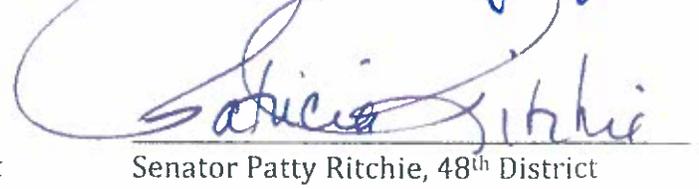
Senator David Carlucci, 38th District



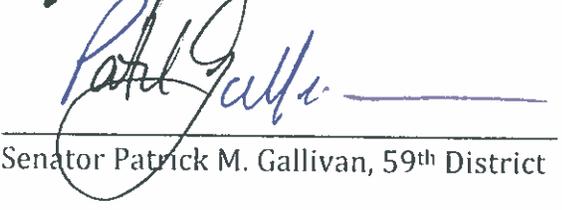
Senator Michael Ranzenhofer, 61st District



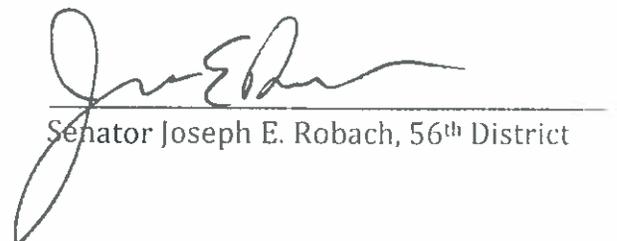
Senator John A. DeFrancisco, 50th District



Senator Patty Ritchie, 48th District



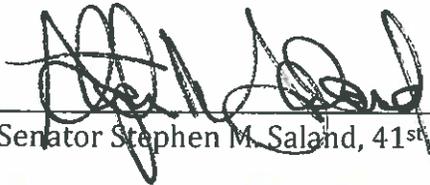
Senator Patrick M. Gallivan, 59th District



Senator Joseph E. Robach, 56th District



Senator Mark Grisanti, 60th District



Senator Stephen M. Saland, 41st District



Senator Kenneth P. LaValle, 1st District



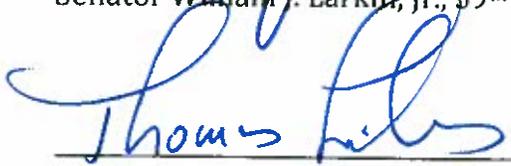
Senator James L. Seward, 51st District



Senator William F. Larkin, Jr., 39th District



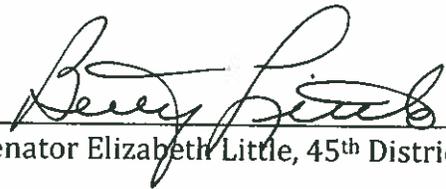
Senator David J. Valesky, 49th District



Senator Tom Libous, 52nd District



Senator Lee M. Zeldin, 3rd District



Senator Elizabeth Little, 45th District