



JOSÉ M. SERRANO
28th Senate District

LEGISLATURE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY



STEVE ENGLEBRIGHT
4th Assembly District

May 18, 2012

Senator Charles E. Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C., 20510

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
478 Russell
Washington D.C., 20510

Dear Senators Schumer and Gillibrand:

We, the undersigned members of the New York State Legislature, were alarmed to learn that the U.S. House of Representatives recently passed the *Sportsmen's Heritage Act* (H.R. 4089,) which includes language that could allow much of the National Park System to be open to hunting and recreational shooting. It defies common sense that areas set aside to commemorate important events in our nation's history, such as the Saratoga National Historical Park, or to honor the great leaders of this country, such as the Franklin D. Roosevelt Home Historic Site, could be opened to hunting and recreational shooting. Besides causing the loss of park wildlife, such activities will interfere with the enjoyment and appreciation of these areas by other visitors. Congress may or may not have reason to legislate about hunting on some federal lands, but we call upon you to ensure that our National Parks remain treasures of peaceful, quiet contemplation and safe family enjoyment.

We ask that should U.S. Senate consider taking up the House's bill you work to make sure that the entire National Park System is excluded from any final legislation. Where hunting is not currently allowed, from the Women's Rights National Historical Park in Auburn, to the Fire Island National Seashore in Long Island, the law should remain unchanged. And with millions of American citizens and tourists from abroad visiting the nation's 397 units of the National Park System to learn about our country's natural and cultural heritage, it is ludicrous and dangerous to consider allowing hunting into these pristine public parks. We ask that you take a leadership role in ensuring the safety and natural integrity of our National Park System remains intact. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Senator José M. Serrano

Assemblymember Steve Englebright



Senator Tom Duane



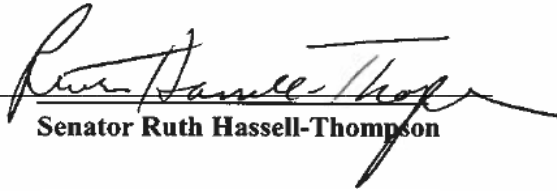
Assemblymember Richard Gottfried



Senator Michael Gianaris



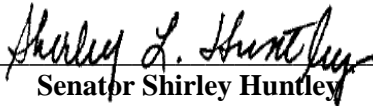
Assemblymember Daniel O'Donnell



Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson



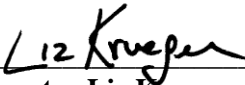
Assemblymember Mathew Titone



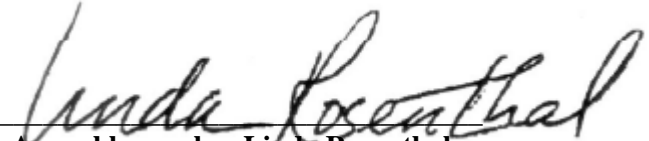
Senator Shirley Huntley



Assemblymember Nick Perry



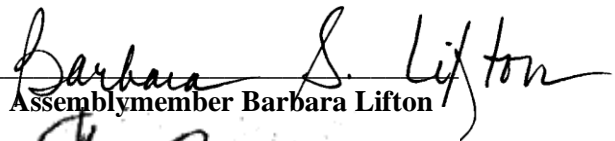
Senator Liz Krueger



Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal



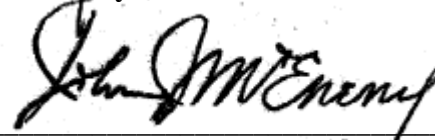
Senator Velmanette Montgomery



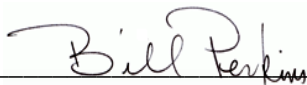
Assemblymember Barbara Lifton



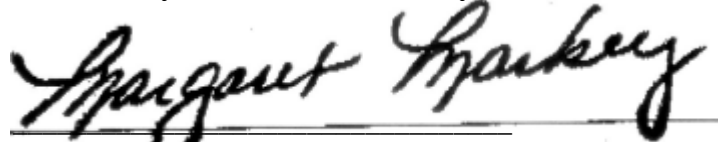
Senator Suzi Oppenheimer



Assemblymember Jack McEneny



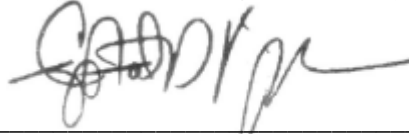
Senator Bill Perkins



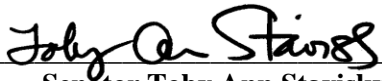
Assemblymember Margaret Markey



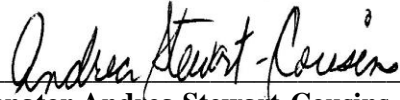
Senator Daniel Squadron



Assemblymember Crystal Peoples-Stokes



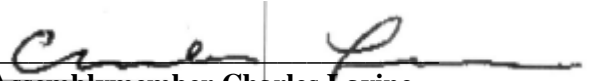
Senator Toby Ann Stavisky



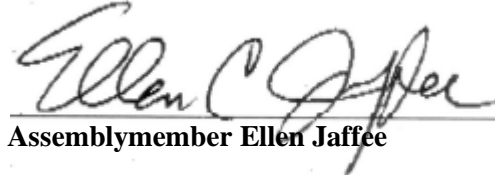
Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins



Senator Tony Avella



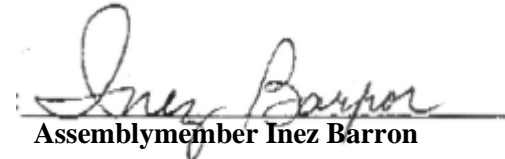
Assemblymember Charles Lavine



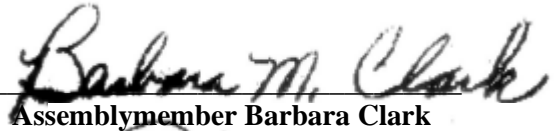
Assemblymember Ellen Jaffee



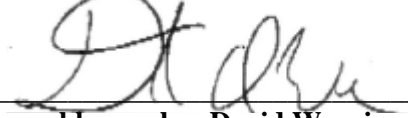
Assemblymember Amy Paulin



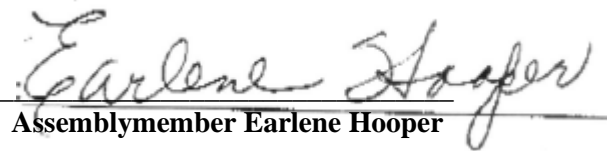
Assemblymember Inez Barron



Assemblymember Barbara Clark



Assemblymember David Weprin



Assemblymember Earlene Hooper