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THE SENATE
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August 20, 2026

Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
New York State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

I write to you as hunting season quickly approaches in Western New York – and to encourage you to call up and sign my bill that would extend Big Game Hunting by Rifle in Niagara County.

Senate Bill S.9302 – which allows hunters in Niagara County to take deer and bear by rifle - passed both houses with bi-partisan support and simply extends an amendment to conservation law that you signed in 2024. This bill has no financial implications to taxpayers, and it does exclude rifle hunting in the cities of North Tonawanda, Niagara Falls, and Lockport – and provides a measure for municipalities to opt out should they wish to.

Hunters in Niagara County have shown remarkable responsibility, as not a single accident has been reported related to rifle hunting. With this proven track record of safety, an increase to tag sales, and the positive effect to local habitats with the curbing of big game populations – it's safe to say Western New York has thoroughly benefited from rifle hunting.

Western New York's Early Antlerless season runs from September 12 – September 20, with regular firearms hunting season beginning November 21. I urge you to take up this bill now so that hunters can adequately prepare for the coming seasons.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob-G. Ortt". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "R" and a cursive "Ortt".

Senator Rob Ortt
New York State Senate – 62nd District