



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Onondaga County

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Dear Delegate:

I write in support of the Oneida Lake Association's request related to cormorant management on Oneida Lake.

Cornell Cooperative Extension has long been committed to the Oneida Lake watershed as an important asset to the rural communities that surround it. Data collected by Cornell University's Shackleton Research Station, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the National Wildlife Research Center indicate that, for waters entirely within New York State, Oneida Lake is by far the largest draw for residential and visiting anglers and, therefore, a vital part of the local economy. Cormorant management is an important part of this watershed's economic future as it supports the reintroduction and stabilization of vulnerable fish populations.

While the harassment program's largest job gains and economic benefits are driven by angling, the program's benefits go beyond recreation. The staff and equipment housed in Brewerton also provide expertise and support directly to agriculture and municipalities, as in the hazing of starlings at dairy farms and the mitigation of crow impacts in the City of Auburn. USDA staff also provide expertise to help manage overpopulated geese such as those that caused last year's near-tragic plane crash on the Hudson River.

I appreciate you taking the time to consider this letter of support. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

ALU

Anastasia L. Urtz, J.D.
Executive Director

Sustainable. Educational. Local.