

NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF TROUT UNLIMITED

7 Helen Street
Plattsburgh NY 12901
31 January 2010

Representative Bill Owens
2366 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Subject: Cormorant Management Funding Restoration

Dear Representative Owens:

Last year's Federal budget eliminated funding for cormorant control in New York State. This action eliminates a resoundingly successful USDA control program and risks up to 1,400 local jobs and \$50 million in economic impact.

New York State DEC, US Fish and Wildlife and major outdoor organizations are heartily in favor of this program, which has significance far beyond Oneida Lake, where it has enjoyed major success.

The cessation of this program has immediate adverse impacts not only in Central New York, but also on Lake Champlain, where USDA experts were poised to spearhead a major waterfowl management program to control the depredations of cormorants on our recreational fishing stocks. As you know, recreational fishing is a huge economic engine in the North Country. Cormorants also create havoc among other waterfowl on the lake, and their feces are a significant water pollutant.

Please contact your fellow upstate legislators such as Dan Maffei and Mike Arcuri to get this vital cormorant management program restored in this year's budget process for the 2011 USDA Appropriations bill, on which work will begin shortly.

If you need more information on the importance of this program to your district and to the good health of Lake Champlain, I suggest you contact New York State DEC Region 5 Director Betsy Lowe or Joe Racette, also at DEC's Ray Brook office.

Thank you in advance for your help.

William H. Wellman, Region 5 Vice President New York State Council of Trout Unlimited
and member, NY-Vt- FWS Cormorant Control Coordinating Committee

CC: DEC: Racette, Schock
NYSCTU: Urban
Oneida Lake Association