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**THE SENATE
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JAMES L. SEWARD

SENATOR, 51ST DISTRICT

**CHAIRMAN, MAJORITY PROGRAM
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

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MENTAL HEALTH

October 10, 2018

Mr. Basil Seggos, Commissioner
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-1011

RE: CAFO ECL General Permits – Owasco Lake

Dear Commissioner Seggos,

I have been contacted by organizations in the portion of Cayuga County I represent regarding the DEC's draft CAFO regulations for farms that would fall under the Clean Water Act (CWA) general permit.

It is the consensus of local officials responsible for providing water and managing local lake resources that general CAFO permits that fall under the Environmental Conservation Law should reflect the more comprehensive requirements of the CWA CAFO permit processes. The concern of the watershed management group, and others, is the growth of harmful algal blooms (HAB) resulting from the increased nutrient loading in Owasco Lake resulting from area agricultural runoff.

As you know, the state has taken steps to address the problems faced by Owasco Lake and local lake users due to HABs, and many believe that subjecting CAFO permits to the more thorough standards of the CWA permit would provide additional long term benefits for the lake. I hope that the DEC will review the concerns that have been submitted in formal comments during the public comment period on the draft permit and take very seriously the request of local officials and citizens that the CWA permit conditions apply more broadly.

I appreciate the department's efforts, and ask that the administration redouble its efforts to address this very serious problem in Owasco Lake and our other Finger Lakes waterbodies.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James L. Seward". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

JAMES L. SEWARD
State Senator

JLS:dd;jt

