

Groups Supporting Passage of S. 7851-B (O'Mara) /A. 9619-B (Lifton)

An act to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to aquatic invasive species, spread prevention, and penalties

Adirondack Council • Adirondack Mountain Club
Adirondack Wild: Friends of the Forest Preserve
Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board
Citizens Campaign for the Environment • Environmental Advocates
Natural Resources Defense Council • New York Council of Trout Unlimited
New York League of Conservation Voters • New York Public Interest Research Group
New York State Federation of Lake Associations • Parks & Trails New York
Protect the Adirondacks • Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter • The Nature Conservancy

Adirondack Lakes Alliance • Adirondack Landowners Association
Adirondack Watershed Institute Stewardship Program
Anawanda Lake Owners Association • Beaver Dam Lake District
Black Lake Association • Blue Mountain Lake Association
Blue Mountain Lake Water Watch • Brant Lake Association
Brantingham Community Association • Chenango Lake Property Owners Association
Hydrilla Task Force of the Cayuga Lake Watershed • Deans Pond Association
China Barrett Homeowners Association • Garnet Lake Association
Cortland-Onondaga Federation of Kettle Lakes Association
East Shore Schroon Lake Association • Glen Lake Protective Association
Hatch-Bradley Brook Lakes Association • Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance
Indian Lake Association • Keuka Lake Association • Lake George Association
Lake Moraine Association in Madison County • Livingston Lake Club
Long Lake Association • Loon Lake Park District Association
Mount Arab Preserve Association • Northwoods Association • Osgood Pond Association
Paradox Lake Association • Saratoga Lake Protection & Improvement District
Schroon Lake Association • Silver Lake Association
Association of Property Owners of Sleepy Hollow Lake • Tuscarora Lake Association
Swinging Bridge Property Owners Association • Tully Lake Association

Hon. Sheldon Silver, Assembly Speaker
Legislative Office Building Room 932
Albany, NY 12248

June 18, 2014

Hon. Dean Skelos, Majority Coalition Leader
Legislative Office Building Room 909
Albany, NY 12247

Hon. Jeffrey Klein, Majority Coalition Leader
Legislative Office Building Room 913
Albany, NY 12247

RE: Groups Support Passage of S. 7851-B/A. 9619-B “An act to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to aquatic invasive species, spread prevention, and penalties”

Dear Speaker Silver, Majority Coalition Leader Skelos, Majority Coalition Leader Klein:

The organizations listed above support passage of legislation (S. 7851-B/A. 9619-B) that would help to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) throughout New York. This legislation aims to prevent the spread AIS by requiring the removal of visible vegetation and animals from boats and related gear, as well as draining areas of the watercraft of all water, when entering and leaving boat launch sites across New York. Laws that prohibit the transport of AIS are common throughout the U.S. Many states such as Minnesota, Vermont, New Hampshire, Washington, Idaho, Montana, California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, Massachusetts, and South Carolina, among others, have similar laws.

S. 7851-A/A. 9619-B prohibits the launching of boats that have any visible plant and animal matter on any surface of the boat or trailer, or contains any standing water, at any public or private boat launch into any water body in New York. Boats should be clean, drained and dry.

The main vector for spreading AIS throughout New York is the transport of motorboats for public recreation. 460,000 motorboats were registered in New York in 2012. Tens of thousands of boats are transported across New York for public recreation for use on many lakes, ponds, and rivers. AIS plants and animals attach to boat engines, hulls, and trailers, among other places, and are carried from one lake to another. In juvenile stages, microscopic AIS animals, such as Asian clams (*Corbicula fluminea*), quagga mussels (*Dreissena bugensis*) and spiny water flea (*Bythotrephes longimanus*), are transported in standing ballast waters, engine water and in live wells and bait buckets.

The time for action is now. New York is an area rich in incredible lakes, ponds and rivers. The water quality of New York is vital to the local economies and supports a number of businesses, resorts, vacation homes, and high property values. AIS can rapidly change the ecology of a lake, wetland, pond or river as well as significantly impair and seriously diminish recreational enjoyment. A much greater investment is needed by New York to prevent the spread of AIS in order to protect our economy, environment and quality of life.

Comprehensive statewide action, with a focused effort on prevention and interdiction, is vital today because in New York we still have places like the Adirondack Park, and other areas of Upstate New York, where the majority of the major lakes remain free of AIS. Unlike most of the rest of New York, most of the major lakes and ponds in the Adirondacks remain free of AIS, but the numbers of infested lakes continues to grow.

As more lakes become infested with AIS, the costs of control efforts rise. AIS control is very expensive, often beyond the means on lake associations, local governments and limited funding from the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). Prevention and interdiction are far less expensive and will do much more to control the spread of AIS.

The recent costs of unsuccessful control efforts on Lake George for the Asian clam (*Corbicula fluminea*) and for hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) on Cayuga Lake show the high costs of control efforts. Over \$4 million has been spent to control Asian clams on

Lake George and over \$1 million to control hydrilla in Cayuga Lake. Given this reality, New York needs to significantly improve its AIS prevention and interdiction infrastructure.

Many non-profits, local governments, and academic institutions, among others, have organized programs where Lake Stewards provide public information about the threats and hazards of AIS at boat launches. The people and organizations on the front lines of AIS education believe that a new law that prohibits the launching of any boat that is not clean, drained and dry is badly needed and will significantly help statewide efforts to control AIS.

Hundreds of lake associations across New York support this bill.

It is time to place greater emphasis on prevention and interdiction of AIS and pass S. 7851-B/A. 9619-B “An act to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to aquatic invasive species, spread prevention, and penalties.”

Sincerely,

Willie Janeway, Executive Director
Adirondack Council

Bill McGhie, Chairman
Adirondack Lakes Alliance

Ross Whaley, Executive Director
Adirondack Landowners Association

Neil Woodworth, Executive Director
Adirondack Mountain Club

Fred Monroe, Executive Director
Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board

Eric Holmlund, Director
Adirondack Watershed Institute Stewardship Program

David Gibson and Dan Plumley, Partners
Adirondack Wild: Friends of the Forest Preserve

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Karen Winters, President
Black Lake Association

John Collins, President
Blue Mountain Lake Association

Mary Lynne Heldmann, President
Blue Mountain Lake Water Watch

R. Douglas Paton, President
Brant Lake Association

Pat Dowling, President
Brantingham Community Association

James Balyszak, Program Manager
Hydrilla Task Force of the Cayuga Lake Watershed

Martha J Hoover, President
Chenango Lake Property Owners Association

David Africk, President
China Barrett Homeowners Association

Sarah Eckel, Legislative and Policy Director
Citizens Campaign for the Environment

Tarki Heath, President
Cortland-Onondaga Federation of Kettle Lakes Association

David Snutes, President
Deans Pond Association in Cortland County

Jane B Smith, President
East Shore Schroon Lake Association

Peter Iwanowicz, Executive Director
Environmental Advocates

Hilary Lambert, President
Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance

Roy Keats, President
Garnet Lake Association

Paul Derby, President
Glen Lake Protective Association

Tom Hofstead, President
Hatch-Bradley Brook Lakes Association

Bruce Catlin, President
Indian Lake Association

Bill Laffin, President
Keuka Lake Association

Walt Lender, Executive Director
Lake George Association

Jane Clement, President
Lake Moraine Association in Madison County

Kelly Peebles
Livingston Lake Club

Jackie Mallery, President
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Edward Griesmer, President
Loon Lake Park District Association

Terry Sylvester, Water Quality Chair
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Robin Dropkin, Executive Director
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Peter Bauer, Executive Director
Protect the Adirondacks

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Mark Granger, President
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Roger Downs, Conservation Director
Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter

Mark Emmerson, President
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Laurel Mann, Association Manager
Association of Property Owners of Sleepy Hollow Lake

Art Goodman, Secretary
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Chris Kruth, President
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Dick Steinbach, President
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