



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

George M. Borrello

## Statement by Senator George Borrello on Chautauqua Lake and Wetland Regulation Changes

GEORGE M. BORRELLO March 11, 2024

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“Chautauqua Lake is an environmental and recreational treasure for our region and a resource that I have worked to protect throughout my public service career at both the local and state levels.

The concerns being expressed by many in our community about changes to the wetland designation by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for a portion of the

lake are understandable given the harmful impact such restrictions could have on homeowners, property values and even the area's economy.

That is why I have been engaged in conversations with the DEC about this issue in recent weeks and have communicated to them the vital necessity of ensuring any wetland designation change does not impact property owners or the recreational use of the lake. They have assured me that any changes will not impact existing usage and activities. For example, anyone who has a dock, whether it's permanent or seasonal, will not be impacted.

New York State's tendency to overregulation is well-known, which is why we will continue our dialogue with DEC as the regulatory process moves forward. However, I believe their assurances should satisfy our concerns for the moment, with an understanding that we will continue to monitor the process to make sure they deliver on their commitment.

As more questions arise, we will continue to advocate for all who have invested in our community and enjoy our lake.”