



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

James L. Seward

## Owasco Lake Water Quality Being Addressed

JEFF BISHOP, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR    October 19, 2016

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**ONEONTA, 10/19/16** -- State Senator James L. Seward (R/C/I – Oneonta) today applauded the **release of \$600,000 in state funds** secured by the New York State Senate to study algae blooms in Owasco Lake and called for continued monitoring of the lake's water by state officials.

**“Owasco Lake provides drinking water to 50,000 residents. Additionally, it is the central feature of the local landscape and economy. We need to ensure its viability and vitality today and for generations to come. I was proud to work with Senator DeFrancisco to secure \$600,000 in state funding for this crucial project and applaud the DEC and DOH for their attentiveness to Owasco**

**Lake.”**

The \$600,000 grant, included in the 2015-16 state budget is part of an ongoing commitment by Senator Seward to support best management practices in the local watershed while reviewing long-term strategies to improve water quality. As part of the 2014-15 state budget, Senator Seward worked with Assemblyman Gary Finch to secure \$200,000 to implement the *Dutch Hollow Brook Watershed Restoration Project*.

**“The grant funds are crucial to ensure proper research is conducted to study water quality issues and implement real solutions. However, the state cannot simply write a check and consider the issue closed. The DEC and DOH must work cooperatively with local officials to ensure a comprehensive solution is enacted to improve and protect Owasco Lake’s water quality in both the short-term and long-term.”**