



THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK

SENATOR PATTY RITCHIE
48TH DISTRICT
OSWEGO, JEFFERSON, ST. LAWRENCE COUNTIES

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LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON
RURAL RESOURCES

May 3, 2012

Governor Andrew Cuomo
New York State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,


I am writing to request that you contact USDA Secretary Vilsack and ask that he issue a disaster declaration for counties where farmers have experienced damage to their crops. As you know, our State's farmers have been subjected to a very severe frost event which has produced widespread damage across New York State.

My office has been in contact with Commissioner Aubertine's office, James Barber, Executive Director of the USDA's Farm Service Agency, and NY Farm Bureau and it is clear that the preliminary damage assessments indicate that this may be one of the worst statewide, multi-crop losses we have ever witnessed here in New York.

Cornell's Lake Erie Regional Research Laboratory has estimated crop losses for grapes at 40-50%, cherries at 100%, peaches at 90%, and apples at 50%. While the level of crop loss varies based on the region of the State, elevation, and stage of growth, there is no doubt that there is a high probability that many farmers will face severe economic losses.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my request. If I may provide assistance to you or your staff, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

Sincerely,



Patty Ritchie
State Senator

cc: Commissioner Aubertine
James Barber
Dean Norton

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 OSWEGO COUNTY OFFICE: 46 EAST BRIDGE STREET, FIRST FLOOR, OSWEGO, NEW YORK 13126 (315) 342-2057
 ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY OFFICE: 330 FORD STREET, OGDENSBURG, NEW YORK 13669 (315) 393-3024

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