

# OPINION

## LETTERS POLICY

- Letters should be typed or neatly printed.
- Letters must be signed and include an address and phone number.
- Letters may be edited for space considerations.
- The publication of any letter is at the discretion of the editor.
- All letters become the property of The Leader and cannot be returned to sender.

**Mail:** LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, THE LEADER PO BOX 1017 CORNING, NY 14830  
**Fax:** 607-936-9939  
**Email:** sdupree@the-leader.com

Online at [www.the-leader.com/opinions](http://www.the-leader.com/opinions)

**READER VIEW | DEBORAH KINGHAM-CARUSO**

## Economics of climate change

With the recent attention on the roller coaster stock market, it has caused me to reflect on climate change and its potential future impact on the financial market and our economy.

The topic of El Nino has seeped from the scientific community to the media this year, as we are experiencing an abnormally strong phenomenon - known as Super El Nino. Although El Nino has been occurring for millions of years, it is suggested that the intensifying of it is a result of human-induced climate change, particular increased concentrations of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide. El Nino causes abnormally warm water to be brought toward South America.

This in turn causes more precipitation, leading to intense storms and flooding events. The opposite occurs in places like Australia, where drought can become widespread. Crops die as a result of prolonged flooding, as well as prolonged drought. This causes a lower crop yield and supply, harming the livelihood of these farmers, and causing the price of these products to increase drastically, thus affecting our disposable income.

Extreme weather events are increasing in the U.S., such as Superstorm Sandy.

Sandy caused more than \$20 billion in damage, with some estimates exceeding \$65 billion. Who pays for

this? Will we be forced to pay a new "extreme weather event tax" every year? Will insurance rates go sky high? Superstorm Sandy, as well as Hurricane Katrina, has damaged some businesses beyond repair, and even years after the storms, certain localities are still abandoned. What kind of long-lasting economic impact does this create for the people left behind? Doesn't the loss of jobs and businesses affect not only the surrounding areas, but the entire United States economy?

If the current lack of growth in the China market can reportedly cause 400 point drops in stocks, isn't it reasonable to think that the cost and cleanup and loss of business due to continued ferocious storms may eventually affect our day-to-day stock market? Climate change raises many questions and is a topic that spans many academic fields. It is unlike anything that mankind has ever faced, in its power, breadth and complexity, and therefore cannot be shoved into the folder neatly labeled "environmental issues" or "economic issues".

It is something that, sooner or later, will affect you, your spouse, your future great grandson, your dog, and the entire population of the world. And because of that, we have to care, we have to understand it and we have to do something about it.

**Deborah Kingham-Caruso**  
 Corning

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Alleys need caution signs

TO THE EDITOR | I would like to express a concern about the alleys behind the old Business Development Center and Goodyear.

There should be signs erected at both beginning and ends of each of these alleys like the yellow ones we see on the highway informing the driver there is two lanes of traffic ahead. Many people enter these alleys

in a big rush and think it is one way.

In my opinion, these alleys should be kept the way it is except put in a sign like I suggested above or ones that say: "Caution two way traffic ahead."

I think that this is an accident waiting to happen. Let us study this situation and prevent it before it happens. Thanks for allowing me to express my opinion.

**Fran Avagliano**  
 Corning

**WEEKLY COLUMN | SEN. TOM O'MARA**

## New York-grown is always within local reach

This week marks autumn's official beginning, which makes it a perfect time to turn our attention to everything that New York State agriculture will have to offer throughout the season ahead. One of government's overriding responsibilities, in my view, is to keep doing our part to help promote the abundance, quality and variety of New York's locally grown and fruits, vegetables and so many other agricultural products.

Here in the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes regions - in fact, statewide - we can deservedly take great pride in a nationally renowned lineup of agricultural offerings.

The perfect fall place to start begins with A, as in apples and New York's second-largest-in-the-nation apple industry.

New York Apple Association (NYAA) President Jim Allen recently announced, "Apple fans, this is your signal to get your taste buds ready - the country's best apples are on the way. Growers are now picking fruit statewide. We are the second-largest apple growing state in the nation, so apple fans don't have to look any further for great apples. They will be glad they did, because closer means fresher, more flavorful apples."

The "buy local" underpinning of this announcement couldn't be more important. I fully share the association's hope that New York consumers will purchase their apples, cider, juice, pies and other apple products this fall from local farm markets, grocers and pick-your-own destinations.

Visit the New York Apple Association ([www.nyapplecountry.com](http://www.nyapplecountry.com)) to find an orchard or other outlet near you. This fall, the association has also launched NYCider.com to make it easier for consumers to find out more about enjoying and locating sweet and hard ciders regionally and statewide.

According to NYAA, New York is expected to harvest 26.2 million cartons of apples this year - which equates to about 13 apples for each of the state's 19.75 million residents. In other words, there'll be a lot of bites



SEN. TOM O'MARA

taken out of a New York apple this fall.

There will also be plenty of fall festivals in the months ahead, including the 33rd Annual Great Downtown Ithaca Apple Harvest Festival in early October. It's always an active time of year across Finger Lakes wine country, of course, with the grape harvest underway and celebrated with numerous events (stay updated on [www.fingerlakeswinecountry.com](http://www.fingerlakeswinecountry.com)).

And many, many farmer's markets continue to operate well into the fall season. Click on the "Find a Local Farmer's Market Near You" icon in the left-hand column of my Senate website, [omara.nysenate.gov](http://omara.nysenate.gov), to find out more. There will be plenty of agriculture-related opportunities to buy local across the region during September and October.

Of course it takes more than straightforward consumer awareness to fully ensure the well-being of an industry that's constantly challenged from so many different national and international competitive quarters.

This past legislative session, for instance, saw the continuation of the Senate's "Grown in New York"

**What's most fortunate of all is that each of us can do our part to help keep these farmers and producers going - and growing.**

- Sen. Tom O'Mara

strategy to strengthen New York State agriculture overall through the enactment of tax relief, regulatory reform and other initiatives, as well as to encourage more young people to become involved in farming.

The Legislature gave final approval, for example, to a piece of legislation (S.1824/A.1571) that will provide new and beginning farmers with enhanced access to viable agricultural land. A second initiative (S.3441/A.228) will create the "Urban and Regional Farmers' Market Facilities Construction Program" to help with the establishment, expansion and development of year-round urban or regional farmers' market facilities. Those are just a few examples.

According to the state Department of Agriculture and Markets, in addition to providing New York with nationally leading apple, dairy and wine industries, our farmers also make us national leaders in the production of numerous other crops and products: cabbage and pumpkins; maple syrup and squash; cauliflower and corn silage; pears, snap beans, sweet corn, tomatoes and cucumbers; onions and tart cherries; strawberries and oats; and

potatoes. And that's highlighting a small sampling of what's grown in New York.

We can't say it enough: this industry earns and deserves its accolades. New York's farmers are the source of the freshest food for New York's consumers at a time of ever-increasing demand for locally grown products regionally, statewide and nationally. Farmers are among our most committed conservationists - the first stewards of the land. They provide thousands of livelihoods and anchor so many communities in so many ways.

A NY-grown future starts from a single fact: the success of New York's \$5-billion-plus agriculture sector begins and ends with the success of New York's 36,000 farm families.

What's most fortunate of all is that each of us can do our part to help keep these farmers and producers going - and growing. That's right, one part of a strong NY-grown future is always within local reach.

- State Sen. Tom O'Mara represents New York's 53rd Senate District, which includes Steuben, Chemung, Schuyler and Yates counties, and a portion of Tompkins County.

## EDITORIAL CARTOON



**POLITICS | DARIN ROBBINS**

## Give residents greater budgetary control

During this campaign for mayor, I have emphasized the idea that the residents of Corning are the co-owners of the city.

One of the clearest policies that can reflect that idea is participatory budgeting. Participatory budgeting is when the members of a community have the ability to choose where public funds such as tax revenue can go in the city budget. It began in cities such as Sao Paulo and Porto Alegre in Brazil, and has expanded to such cities as New York City, St. Louis, and Toronto.

Even small nearby towns like Tonawanda practice a form of participatory budgeting. The allocation of public budgets, especially local budgets, affects the everyday life of citizens in terms of the relationship between public spending and public services. Decisions made in the formation of budgets is one of the primary roles of democracy. And the formation of a personal budget is the responsibility of private individuals in that these individuals are the owners of the resources being allocated. Since public budgets are

the allocation of taxes paid by private individuals, the private individuals who pay taxes are the co-owners of the public services funded by those taxes.

As the Green Party candidate for mayor of Corning, I propose that we establish a process where a form will be distributed by mail to all city residents who will pay city taxes that year, either directly through home ownership or indirectly through rent. They will have the ability to choose where 30% of their subsequent individual tax payment of that year shall go in the city

budget. Right now, the City Manager puts together the city budget and the city has financial obligations that residents may not be fully aware of. But the opportunity for residents to allocate 30 percent of their tax payment insures that they have input and control over the infrastructure and services they need as members of a community. And I sincerely believe that this is a vital value that all elected officials must promote.

**Darin Robbins** is running for Corning City mayor

## The LEADER

The Leader (ISSN #10501983)  
 The Leader is published daily at  
 34 West Pulteney Street, Corning,  
 New York 14830

by Liberty Group Corning  
 Holdings, Inc. Periodical postage  
 paid at Corning, N.Y. 14830-0817.  
 USPS code | 0586-160

Postmaster:  
 Send address changes to  
 The Leader, 34 West Pulteney  
 Street, Corning, New York 14830

**Publisher**  
 Rick Emanuel | Group Publisher  
 936-4651, Ext. 303

**Editorial**  
 Stella DuPree | Managing Editor  
 936-4651, Ext. 361  
 sdupree@the-leader.com

**Circulation**  
 Corinne Mulligan  
 Customer Service/ Sales Manager  
 936-4651, Ext. 328

**Advertising**  
 Adam Mingos | Ad Director  
 936-4651, Ext. 388  
 amingos@the-leader.com

**Classifieds** 936-4651, Ext. 651  
**Retail** 936-4651, Ext. 653

**Postal rates**  
**Steuben County**  
 One month \$33.50  
 Three months \$100.50  
 Six months \$201.00  
 One year \$402.00

**ELSEWHERE IN USA**  
 One month \$43.00  
 Three months \$129.00  
 Six months \$258.00  
 One year \$516.00

Home delivery subscriptions reflect basic subscription rates before additional charges. Due to the added value of special editions there will be an additional charge for each special edition which will accelerate the expiration of your subscription. There will be no more than 12 special editions per year.