

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO ESTABLISH
A CLEAN LAKES COLLABORATION DEDICATED TO PROTECTING NEW YORK STATE'S
MOST VITAL AND THREATENED ASSET**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes a collaboration across sectors and regions to address mounting threats to New York State's most vital natural asset—fresh water lakes and their surrounding watersheds. The MOU is not a binding commitment, but a broadly supported statement of intent outlining the unifying purpose and actions of a **Clean Lakes Collaboration**, whose leadership will drive new standards of protection for the lifeblood of the State's natural, economic, and community character.

WHEREAS, the unparalleled array of fresh water lakes and watersheds of New York State constitute the State's most valuable asset for drinking water, recreation, tourism, agriculture, flood control, fishing, and community health, as well as essential habitat for plant and animal life; and

WHEREAS, the enormous economic value of fresh waters in the State only appreciates as the needs for and pressures on these resources increase; and,

WHEREAS, growing scientific documentation presents incontrovertible evidence of mounting threats and impacts on the State's fresh water lakes and watersheds; and,

WHEREAS, sources of these threats and impacts commonly include inadequate wastewater and stormwater controls, introduction and spread of aquatic and terrestrial invasive species, excessive use of road salt, and climate change; and,

WHEREAS, these sources are contributing to measurable declines in the quality of New York's fresh water resources and their natural resilience to change; and,

WHEREAS, such declines in water quality are evidenced by the escalating number and frequency of fresh water lakes—including public drinking water supplies—experiencing Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) with substantial economic, environmental, public health, and community costs; and,

WHEREAS, successful programs for stopping and reversing water quality declines are being developed and implemented across the State; and,

WHEREAS, the effectiveness of programs to stem the decline of fresh waters has been shown to be substantially strengthened through their application by watershed rather than political boundaries; and,

WHEREAS, natural watersheds encompass comprehensive inputs to and influences on a waterbody, including streams and seepages, stormwater runoff, leaching from municipal and onsite wastewater treatment, weather, and more; and

WHEREAS, the value of accelerating coordinated understanding of effective programs for reducing water quality declines can ensure their growing application statewide; and,

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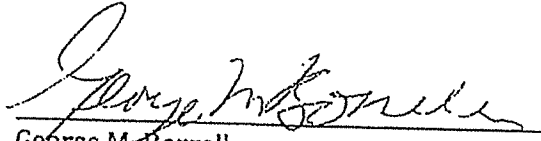
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Agreed to by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "George M. Borrello", written over a horizontal line.

George M. Borrello
Chautauqua County Executive

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