



Hon. Louis A. Rosamilia

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Senator Kathleen Marchione
NYS Senate
188 State Street
Legislative Office Building, Room 918
Albany, New York 12247

Dear Senator Marchione,

I want to thank you for sponsoring S.1081/A.2778, the TNR Funding bill, which will help localities, like the City of Troy, humanely and productively manage feral cat colonies. I am writing you to let you know I support the bill as Troy's mayor and one of the municipalities you represent. It is my hope that you will have this bill go through the legislative process and be passed by the Senate by the end of session.

As you may know, the City of Troy addresses its feral cat population through the public/private partnership established by Operation Snip. The Hudson Mohawk Humane Society, HOPE, SCRUFF, Animal Protective Foundation and Troy Veterinary Hospital partner with Operation Snip to effectively and economically spay or neuter Troy's feral/community cats. Troy's Animal Control Officer is also an active contributor to the coalition.

Funding for comprehensive TNR (trap, neuter and return) programs is limited and desperately needed. The provisions of S.1081/A.2778 will permit Troy's coalition to access TNR funds to more comprehensively address the feral/community cats which roam our alleys. Troy is one of the Capital District's first localities to recognize the challenge and public health concerns of free roaming cats. Troy's coalition has responded to calls from Watervliet, Green Island, Latham and Cohoes residents who are struggling to manage feral cat colonies.

I am especially pleased that the Columbia County Board of Supervisors, the County Health Officials of New York State and the NYS Conference of Mayors support this legislation and recognize that feral cat population control is an issue confronting the state's localities. By providing funds through the NYS Animal Protection Control Fund to local humane societies, SPCAs, non-profit and municipal animal welfare organizations, TNR providers will be able to more effectively decrease the feral cat population.

I thank you for your sponsorship of this legislation to help promote effective management of the feral cat population. I ask that you work with members of the State Legislature move quickly to enact S.1081/A.2778 and aid localities in controlling feral cat colonies. Troy is ready to continue to work with Operation Snip's extensive coalition.

Sincerely,

Lou Rosamilia