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April 14, 2015

NYS Senate Agriculture Committee  
Senator Patty Ritchie, Chair  
Legislative Office Building  
Room 410  
Albany, New York 12247

NYS Assembly Agriculture Committee  
Assemblyman William Magee, Chair  
Legislative Office Building  
Room 828  
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Members of the Agriculture Committees,

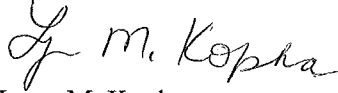
We encourage the Senate and Assembly Agriculture Committees to report from committee S.1081 (Marchione)/A.2778 (McDonald) to help localities to humanely and productively manage feral cat colonies. The City of Troy addresses its feral cat population through the public/private partnership established by 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.

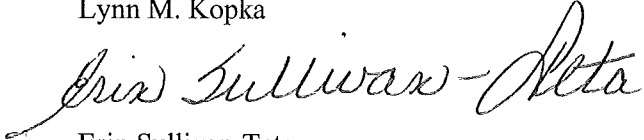
We are especially pleased that the Columbia County Board of Supervisors, the County Health Officials of New York State and the NYS Conference of Mayors support this legislation and recognize that feral cat population control is an issue confronting the state's localities. By providing funds through the 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.

We ask that 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.

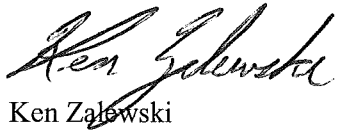
Sincerely,



Lynn M. Kopka



Erin Sullivan-Teta



Ken Zalewski

Gary Galuski

