



JEFF GALLAHAN
Assemblyman, 131st District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
Racing and Wagering
Committee

COMMITTEES
Aging
Children and Families
Local Governments
Tourism, Parks, Arts and
Sports Development

March 25, 2021

Hon. Carl E. Heastie
Speaker
New York State Assembly
932 Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248

Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Majority Leader and Temporary President
New York State Senate
330 Capitol Building
Albany, NY 14224

Dear Legislative Leaders,

We are writing to request that expanded hunting and crossbow licensing be included in the final budget. The Governor's executive budget proposal included lowering the hunting age limit to 12 years old and expanding the use of crossbows in all big-game and small-game hunting seasons in which other bowhunting equipment is allowed. However, these proposals were removed from the recently introduced Assembly and Senate one house budgets.

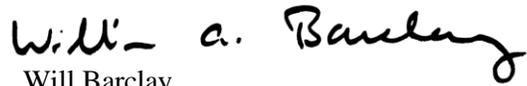
As the deer population in New York continues to grow, hunting provides an effective way to manage the herd. Currently, New York State is the only state in the nation that has not lowered its big game hunting age limit to 12 years old or younger. The average age of individuals purchasing a sporting license is 50 years old. Recruiting young hunters is extremely important to the longevity of hunting in New York, ensuring that the deer herd can be managed through hunting for generations to come.

Recently, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) released a draft 10 Year Deer Management Plan which recommended allowing the DEC to regulate crossbow usage to manage deer herds. This recommendation is supported by many sportsmen because it increases accessibility to hunting. Many hunters are physically unable to operate a bow, putting them at a disadvantage during the current bow season. By classifying crossbows as archery equipment, it would allow their use in deer hunting when archery is allowed and increase accessibility to those with physical limitations.

Thank you for your consideration on this important issue. We are hopeful these measures will be put forth in the final budget this year.

Sincerely,

Jeff Gallahan
Member of Assembly
131st District



Will Barclay
Assembly Minority Leader
120th District



Kevin Byrne
Member of Assembly
94th District



Karl Brabenec
Member of Assembly
98th District



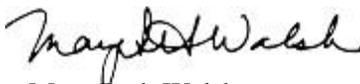
Brian Miller
Member of Assembly
101st District



Chris Tague
Member of Assembly
102nd District



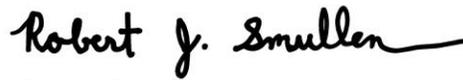
Kieran Michael Lalor
Member of Assembly
105th District



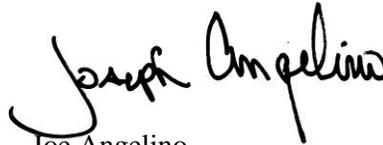
Mary Beth Walsh
Member of Assembly
112th District



Matt Simpson
Member of Assembly
114th District



Robert Smullen
Member of Assembly
118th District



Joe Angelino
Member of Assembly
122nd District



John Lemondes
Member of Assembly
126th District



Brian Manktelow
Member of Assembly
130th District



Marjorie Byrnes
Member of Assembly
133rd District



Angelo Morinello
Member of Assembly
145th District



Andy Goodell
Member of Assembly
150th District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Durso', with a large, sweeping flourish that loops back under the name.

Michael Durso
Member of Assembly
9th District