



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

STEVE HAWLEY
Deputy Minority Leader
139th District

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February 10, 2020

Honorable Carl E. Heastie
Speaker NYS Assembly
Room 931 LOB
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Speaker Heastie:

We would like to take this opportunity to communicate on behalf of our constituents regarding funding for County Cooperative Extension (CCE) Associations.

Cooperative Extension educators and specialists are available in every county, including the five boroughs of New York City. They are actively engaged in their communities in fundamental areas of agriculture and nutrition sciences as well as youth development and leadership including 4-H programming, economic development and community and environmental progress. These associations extend services to over 2 million individuals annually and involve 27,000 volunteers who work to improve our communities.

The state of New York has not increased its support of CCEs for over twenty years. In large part because they are funded by county and federal appropriations in addition to competitive grants and contracts. As you know, this year's Executive Budget proposal consists of flat funding.

We are requesting your support for an increase in the overall funding to the CCE system from \$3.9 million to a total statewide amount of \$8 million which would support all CCE county associations.

With increased funding the CCE system will be better able to proactively respond to local emerging necessities in the area of food system support. In addition, it will better leverage

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County Cooperative Extensions

county funding and competing grant support for all communities. Additionally, funding will help generate research-based environmental justice projects related to urban agriculture.

On behalf of all deserving New York State residents, the undersigned members of the NYS Assembly urge you to consider our request for adequate funding for CCEs. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Hawley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "S".

STEVE HAWLEY
Member of Assembly
139th Assembly District

SMH:cag