



**HONEOYE  
VALLEY**  
ASSOCIATION

February 5, 2018

P.O. Box 165  
Honeoye, New York 14471

Assemblyman Brian M. Kolb  
Legislative Office Building, Room 933  
Albany, New York 12248

Re: Proposed F/Y 2018-19 Funding for Management of Harmful Algal Blooms

Dear Assemblyman Kolb,

I am writing to you on behalf of the membership of the Honeoye Valley Association (HVA) requesting your support for funding for development and implementation of action plans to manage harmful algal blooms as proposed in Governor Cuomo's 2018-19 Executive Budget.

The Governor's proposal would provide up to \$65 million dollars to develop and implement management plans to mitigate significant Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) on 12 New York lakes including our own Honeoye Lake.

Honeoye Lake has been plagued with HABs for decades. HABs represent a significant health risk to lake residents and recreational users from potential exposure to toxins released by some HABs.

HABs significantly reduce the recreational viability of Honeoye Lake. In 2017, Honeoye Lake experienced confirmed and/or suspected significant HABs for 14 weeks during the peak of our recreational season.

The continued presence of HABs in Honeoye Lake has caused economic harm to our community through the reduction of boating, fishing and other recreational opportunities, HABs have also caused a reduction in tourism and values of lakeshore properties.

In 2002, Honeoye Lake was listed on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agencies 303(d) list of Impaired Water Bodies. Because of that listing significant research has been

conducted over a number of years to understand the causes of HABs in Honeoye Lake and to identify potential projects to mitigate them.

Currently, studies are being conducted by Cornell University, Finger Lakes Institute at Hobart and William Smith Colleges and Finger Lakes Community College to better understand factors causing HABs in Honeoye Lake. Water quality data has been collected for over a decade by the HVA and the Honeoye Lake Watershed Task Force (HLWTF). That data is being shared with the researchers to help them with their studies.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) has developed a draft Total Maximum Daily Load Plan (TMDL) for Honeoye Lake to identify sources of pollution and identify potential strategies to improve water quality and reduce HABs. Finalization of the TMDL by NYSDEC is anticipated in the next several months.

The HLWTF which has the responsibility for management of the Honeoye Lake Watershed has been considering strategies for mitigation of HABs in Honeoye Lake based on the soon to be released TMDL and data provided by researchers. They have identified potential projects that could be quickly implemented to reduce the incidence of HABs in Honeoye Lake.

The Honeoye Valley Association is in support of the HLWTF initiatives. What is lacking is funding to implement those plans.

It is our hope that with your support the Governor's proposal will be included in the 2018-19 State Budget. With your help we can work to restore Honeoye Lake. Knowledge gained in that process can be applied to help protect and enhance other New York lakes and waterbodies.

Our membership appreciates your efforts on our behalf to date and we look forward to working with you to move this initiative forward.

Sincerely,

Daniel Lalonde, President