

Insert Date  
The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

I am writing to you to respectfully request your support of Cornell Cooperative Extension's state appropriation of \$8 million for 2020/2021. This funding, which has remained flat for 20 years, plays a pivotal role in leveraging County support and directly places vital Extension professionals in local communities across New York State. Increasing the County Law 224 appropriation to \$8 million will dramatically increase the capacity and impact of every Extension Association, as these dollars directly support their education and outreach efforts.

New York State's commitment to supporting a dynamic educational system through County Law 224 by allocating \$3.92 million ensures research at Cornell University is translated and placed into the hands of New York State citizens in order to enhance their lives and well-being. Cornell Cooperative Extension reaches 1.9 million people each year and 15 million indirectly via print and social media through the efforts of over 1,000 paid educators and 45,000 volunteers.

CCE associations have demonstrated their ability to manage government funding to extend impact to residents. However, competitive grant restrictions and limited county government funding sources result in critical needs not being addressed.

Cornell Cooperative Extension is seeking an increase of \$4 million for a total state investment of \$8 million. This additional New York State investment will increase Cooperative Extension's capacity to proactively respond to local emerging needs in the areas of building resiliency, economic impact, and food system support through enhancing CCE's ability to leverage additional county funding and competitive grant support. Cornell Cooperative Extension is positioned to respond through its connection to Cornell's world-class research to every local community in the state.

The support New York State has provided to Cornell Cooperative Extension throughout its history is tremendous and greatly appreciated. However, by remaining flat for the past few decades, state funding through County Law 224 has weakened the Associations' ability to leverage local support and hire the professionals needed in the field.

New York State has the opportunity to lead by example and increase its investment in the research, outreach and education that will build vibrant communities, businesses and agricultural sectors. The additional County Law 224 funds requested by Cornell Cooperative Extension will strengthen the safety net and educational services Extension Associations provide to our local residents. The funding, if increased, will also build the success needed to leverage sustained support through local governments and competitive funding streams.

I appreciate your consideration of this important matter.

Thank you,

Insert your name here