Citizens Campaign for the Environment is an 80,000 member non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization that works to empower communities and advocate solutions that protect public health and the natural environment.

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February 26, 2018

MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

New York State Ocean Acidification Task Force Extension

S.7211 LaValle

A.8747 Englebright

AN ACT to amend chapter 464 of the laws of 2016 relating to creating the New York state ocean acidification task force, in relation to the effectiveness thereof

JUSTIFICATION

A study published in Nature Climate Change entitled “Vulnerability and Adaptation of US Shellfisheries to Ocean Acidification” identified New York State at high economic risk due to ocean acidification. In 2011, commercial fishing industries landed more than 27 million pounds of finfish and shellfish worth $37.6 million, generated $5 billion in sales in local communities, contributed $1.8 billion to the gross state product, and supported 42,000 jobs. Increasing ocean acidification reduces pH levels and the availability of carbonate, which is a key compound needed by shellfish.

In 2016, the legislature passed legislation to create the New York State Ocean Acidification Task Force, in order to assess the best available science on ocean acidification, provide recommendations to address the problem, and implement strategies to mitigate the impacts of ocean acidification. The law is set to expire on January 1, 2019.

As the science around ocean acidification continues to develop, it is important that the New York State Ocean Acidification Task Force has enough time to analyze the issue and provide meaningful recommendations on actions the state can take to mitigate the problem. To further that goal, this legislation would extend, for three years (until January 1, 2022), the authority for the Task Force to carry out its duties and powers.

CCE SUPPORTS S.7211/A.8747 – NEW YORK STATE OCEAN ACIDIFICATION TASK FORCE EXTENSION

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