

# Concerned Citizens of Cattaraugus County

P. O. Box 93  
St. Bonaventure, NY 14778

New York State Lake Erie Fisheries Research Unit  
ATTN: Mr. Jason Robinson

January 16, 2019

Via E-mail: fwfishle@dec.ny.gov

Re: Upper Cattaraugus Creek Fisheries Management Plan

Dear Mr. Robinson:

I am writing this letter of support on behalf of the group, Concerned Citizens of Cattaraugus County ("C4").

C4 was founded in 1991 by citizens concerned about the environmental, cultural and lifestyle heritages of their communities in Cattaraugus County, New York.

As such, one very important feature of concern is the magnificent Cattaraugus Creek which flows across a significant portion of the county, including those lands of the Seneca Nation of Indians.

Members of C4 discussed the fisheries plan at our last meeting. C4 is supportive of the concepts presented in the draft plan with the following concerns noted:

- It is well established that radioactive material from the West Valley Site has infiltrated in to the Cattaraugus Creek ecosystem and into the Great Lakes ecosystem as far as Lake Ontario. Radioactive hotspots have been identified by the Seneca Nation of Indians and other including the sludge captured behind the Scoby Dam.

Any projects must take this concern into consideration and include step to either not disturb and contain the resting place of the radioactivity or, preferably, include measures to remove and contamination and render the stream environs safer for human use.

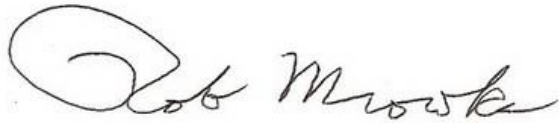
- Plans for the creek and its tributaries must include measures to protect native strains of brown, rainbow and particularly brook trout from impacts for the new arrival of steelhead. Designating certain reaches or tributaries as "native" is a favored idea.
- Any actions must be aggressive in preventing the upstream invasion of lamprey.
- In addition to planning for the arrival of steelhead, the plan must address the current degraded status of Cattaraugus Creek and include measures to improve the quality and condition of the water in the creek and the aquatic and riparian ecosystems associated with it.

We are also attaching for the record and for you use a proposed watershed planning strategy prepared in about 2007 by a coalition of entities. Unfortunately, to our knowledge, it was never implemented, but we

feel it provides sound ideas and approaches to take in developing a final fisheries management plan for Cattaraugus Creek.

Concerned Citizens of Cattaraugus County appreciates the opportunity to review the draft plan and wish to be placed on any future mailings regarding the plan's approval and execution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Mrowka". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "R".

President, Concerned Citizens of Cattaraugus County

Attached: CATTARAUGUS CREEK WATERSHED RESOURCE GUIDE  
AND PROPOSED WATERSHED PLANNING STRATEGY (A PDF of approximately 40 pages)