



**NEW YORK STATE MAPLE
PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION, INC.**

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March 6, 2009

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate
Hart Senate Office Building - Suite 313
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John H. McHugh
United States House of Representatives
2366 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3223

Dear Senator Schumer and Congressman McHugh:

We are writing to offer the support of the NYS Maple Producers Association for reintroduction of the Maple TAP Act which would make funds available to all maple-producing states on a competitive basis. Funding could be used to provide incentives to producers and to support state extension forestry and others such as the NY Forest Owners Association and the Cornell Maple Program in increasing the number of maple trees being tapped and the number of producers in our state.

The trees already exist along with a sizable community of forest owners and maple producers in NYS. Demand for locally-produced syrup exists. Enhanced educational programs would be a major lever along with direct financial support for the equipment and labor to expand production. We project significant production increases over a several year period with substantial increases in income to small businesses and rural communities where limited alternative employment exists.

Passing and funding the Maple TAP Act at a minimum level of \$5 million/year over the next 4 years would spur immediate and long term economic growth. Increasing the percentage of trees tapped in the other US maple producing states to the utilization rate achieved in Vermont (2.1%) would generate an estimated additional \$300 million in annual sales. We feel that this return on investment is very favorable and mobilizes an existing natural resource.

Thank you both for your efforts on behalf of the maple industry in New York State.

Sincerely,

Mary Jeanne Packer

MARY JEANNE PACKER
Executive Director

David Campbell

DAVID CAMPBELL
President