



Dear LEGISLATIVE LEADER,

Our organizations urge your support and earliest possible consideration of the bi-partisan **A.1769a (Maisel)/S.1711a (Grisanti)** bill to end New York’s contribution to the dire collapse of shark populations worldwide. The entire West Coast – California, Washington, Oregon, and Hawaii, Illinois, and all three Pacific U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, and Northern Mariana Islands have taken similar effective actions to provide critical protection to sharks and preserve the health of the world’s ocean ecosystems by banning the possession, sale, trade and distribution of shark fins.

New York should not be a haven for the cruel, wasteful and unsustainable trade in shark fins. Sharks occupy the top of the ocean ecosystem and play a critical role in managing and maintaining overall ocean health. Existing federal and state laws that ban the inhumane and wasteful practice of finning in U.S. waters are not enough to address the worldwide harvest of shark fins, which has created dramatic reductions in the number of sharks and has thereby reduced the ecological benefits that they provide.

New York has long taken action to protect other threatened and endangered species like tigers, elephants, and bears. Now it’s time to protect sharks – magnificent creatures that have survived for over 400 million years, before dinosaurs roamed the earth.

Thank you for your consideration of A.1769a (Maisel)/S.1711a (Grisanti) to provide critical protection for sharks and oceans.

Respectfully,

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