



June 12, 2026

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

The Center for Biological Diversity, founded in 1989, is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit conservation organization dedicated to the protection of endangered species and wild places and the promotion of a healthy and sustainable food and agriculture system.

The Center, on behalf of itself and its 90,000 New York-based members and supporters, strongly supports S.7421B / A.8043C, legislation that prohibits octopus farming in the state of New York.

Commercial octopus farming is unsustainable, environmentally destructive, inhumane, and dangerous to biodiversity and human health. It directly contradicts the values of New York — a leader in protecting state waters through programs that address pollution, climate change, and other threats.

Octopus farming can discharge dangerous contaminants and pollutants into surrounding marine ecosystems, harming wildlife and creating toxic algal blooms. Accidental octopus escapes are likely to spread disease, parasites, and mutations. Farming aquatic animals is also the leading cause of overfishing, as feeding practices are often inefficient and strain wild fish populations.

California and Washington have already enacted legislation to block octopus farming, and coastal states like Connecticut and New Jersey are considering similar bills. As a state that cares about biodiversity and clean, safe state waters, New York should strive to be a leader in this space too.

Sincerely,

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