



ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

June 8, 2026

Hon. Timothy Meyers
Chair, Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

Re: Requesting a discussion about Erie County's efforts to manage the tick population

Dear Chair Meyers,

Recent news reports have highlighted the increased level of tick activity that comes with warmer weather. Growing tick populations pose an increasing danger to public health as ticks may possess many diseases with debilitating symptoms. The CDC is reporting higher numbers of emergency room visits related to tick bites compared to last year¹ and estimates of new cases of Lyme Disease are hitting record levels every year².

While many of the infections that could be transmitted by a tick bite are treatable in the early stages, the only true way to avert them is by avoiding ticks, thus preventing a bite. The Health Department's website offers information to help residents avoid and remove ticks, but Erie County government should also be exploring ways to reduce the tick population throughout the county. Many options exist for tick control, and we should do what we can to protect our residents from this budding public health crisis.

Our caucus would like to hold a committee hearing at an upcoming meeting to discuss what actions the county currently takes to manage the population of ticks and report cases of tick-borne illnesses. We respectfully request that you invite Department of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Commissioner Troy Schinzel and Department of Health Commissioner Gail Burstein to facilitate a discussion on this topic. Thank you for your consideration.

¹ [Why this tick season is again predicted to be worse than last and how to protect yourself](#) | Spectrum News 1, April 27, 2026

² [CDC Data Show Weekly ER Visits for Tick Bites Higher than Usual](#) | CDC, April 23, 2026

Sincerely,



John J. Mills
Minority Leader, District 11



Frank J. Todaro
Legislator, District 8



Christopher D. Greene
Legislator, District 6



Lindsay R. Lorigo
Legislator, District 10

cc: Commissioner Troy Schinzel
Commissioner Gale Burstein