Dear Sir,

I send today under cover a number of my circulæ to you to take the opportunity to thank you for your kind offer of assistance in my extensive inquiries. The chief object I have in view being to ascertain the geographical distribution of all our fishes, besides investigating the specific differences of species, I would thank you to request the persons whom you address in this matter to collect from their respective localities every species however common, young or old, large or small, known or new. I would not think it too much to obtain one hundred collections from different localities from the state of New York alone taking care to select such stations as are upon the head water or the lower courses of the different rivers and basins. I would gladly pay all the expenses you would incur in this investigation for me.

Among the smallest kinds of fish which we best caught with a small hand net of gauge, new species may yet come up. I would also be much obliged for a large supply of very young Lampreys of a variety of intermediate sizes as well as full grown specimens; also for a supply of your new species of Cat-fish. If you can send advantage a large number of them I will pay. Respectfully yours,

Cambridge 4th of July, 1854

Franklin B. Hoskings

Vigans