



DRAFT

**RESOLUTION
IN RECOGNITION OF EARTH DAY APRIL 22, 2012**

Whereas, Earth Day has for the past forty-one years reminded us of our collective responsibility to protect the environment, recognize our interdependence with the natural world and its people, conserve natural resources, and live in a manner respectful of the Earth and its habitats; and

Whereas, in the 1885 establishment of the Forest Preserve, the 1892 creation of the Adirondack Park, and the subsequent Article XIV constitutional protection of public forest lands as "Forever Wild" in 1894, New York State has demonstrated extraordinary leadership in the recognition of the need for the protection of Adirondack forests and a Park landscape that combines the attributes of open space and communities; and

Whereas, since 1973, the Adirondack Park Agency has administered the Adirondack Park Agency Act with the goal of insuring "optimal overall conservation, protection, development and use of the unique scenic, aesthetic, wildlife, recreational, open space, historic, ecological and natural resources of the Adirondack Park;" and

Whereas, the Adirondack Park provides unprecedented water and public land recreational opportunities for residents and visitors, including the highest peaks in New York State, over 2,000 miles of hiking trails and over 1,200 miles of rivers, thousands of lakes and ponds and over 1,000 miles of Scenic Byways; and

Whereas, New York State has shown leadership in the responsible protection of the Park's wetland and water resources through legislative adoption of the Adirondack Park Agency Act, Freshwater Wetlands Act, and Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System Act; and

Whereas, the Adirondack Park is the largest area of protected and managed temperate hardwood forests in North America, with its mosaic of public and private lands, including more than 2,500,000 acres of public Forest Preserve lands, over a million acres of land dedicated to non-motorized wilderness and canoe areas, and its 1,685,600 acres of private forested land; and

Whereas, this year marks the 40th anniversary of the adoption of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan by the State of New York; and

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Whereas, the Adirondack Park and its forested landscape includes 103 towns and villages which are home to 132,000 residents who benefit from a unique interdependence on the natural resource base and forest lands of the Park; and

Whereas, the North Country Regional Economic Development Plan recognizes the Adirondack Park as one of the region's unique natural features and one of the special places on the planet to visit, live, work and study; and

Whereas, the Forest Preserve is an integral part of nature-based tourism and world-class recreational opportunities for residents and millions of visitors to the Park; and

Whereas, the Adirondack Park, its communities and its forested landscape experience the modern-day threats of global climate change, acid deposition and invasive species, and are impacted by a global economy, changes in forest-based industries, inadequate infrastructure, and uncertain fiscal and economic conditions; and

Whereas, the Adirondack Park Agency acknowledges that resource protection and economic improvement are interdependent and mutually beneficial and that the Park's protected landscapes contribute to open space, community viability and quality of life; and

Whereas, in recognition of the interdependence and diversity of all life which shares in the habitats and forest lands of the Earth, and the recognition that, now, more than ever, there is a shared responsibility of government, business, institutions and individual citizens to protect the forests of the Park;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, the Adirondack Park Agency, in recognition of Earth Day 2012, expresses appreciation and celebration of the significance of the Adirondack Park, its public and private forest land and open space, and urges close collaboration and understanding among the Agency and public and private stakeholders in the important task of protecting and enhancing its natural resources for the benefit of its residents, visitors, the State of New York and the world.

Resolution approved by acclamation on this date, April 19, 2012.

Members Present: