



**Adirondack
Park Agency**

July 14, 2015

Invasive Species Prevention Week

Second Pond Boat Wash

Chairwoman Ulrich

Good Morning,

It is a privilege to be here this morning on behalf of the Adirondack Park Agency at this milestone event. The APA is honored to be a part of Governor Cuomo's team in this critical fight against invasive species.

At the first Common Ground Alliance, future invasive species invasions were identified as one of the top 3 threats to the Adirondack Park. And as of June 2015 we know that Lake Champlain is now home to 50 invasive species, the St. Lawrence River - 87 species, the Great Lakes - 184 species, and the Hudson River - 122 species. Compared to 11 aquatic invasive species found inside the Adirondack Park. The threat of invasion into the Park is real.

So, earlier this spring the APA was elated to sign on to the unprecedented Invasive Species Memorandum of Understanding. Under Governor Cuomo's leadership, over 50 New York State agencies, municipal governments, property owners, lake associations, conservation groups, sporting groups and businesses committed to prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species into the Adirondack region. The 53 parties pledged to join forces and implement a regional approach to aquatic invasive species prevention. I'm so proud to be a part of this team and the regional approach now underway!

The Governor's Adirondack Aquatic Invasive Species Spread Prevention Pilot Program is another key component of the multi-front assault on these aggressive and unwanted plants. Working with our colleagues at the Department of Environmental Conservation and with strong allies like the Adirondack Park Invasive Species Program, the Adirondack Watershed Institute, local government, lake shore associations, academic institutions and environmental organizations, we have found successful ways to protect the magnificent waterbodies and forests of the Adirondack Park.

We know in this battle that education, awareness and rapid frontline response is key to stopping the spread of Invasives. Boat wash stations like this facility are essential weapons to hold at bay the many threats that

are accidentally transported on boats and boat trailers. Just as importantly, these boat wash stations will serve as vital public awareness and educational facilities informing the general public of the real threat of Invasive Species, a threat not only to the ecological integrity of the Park, but one that we know has very tangible financial impacts, that could result in unsustainable future remediation costs and substantial economic decline for our robust tourism industry.

Thankfully, as a result of Governor Cuomo and Commissioner Marten's leadership, the hard work and dedication of all the organizations represented here today and the countless hours given so generously every year to protect this Park by passionate volunteers, we are winning this war on Invasives. Let us continue to be proactive and ever vigilant in our fight against invasive species.

Thank you Governor Cuomo and Commissioner Martens and congratulations all on the opening of this Boat wash station!