



# Adirondack Park Agency

## RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NEW YORK STATE'S LEADERSHIP IN CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY

**Whereas**, On June 1, 2017 the United States announced its withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement previously agreed upon by 195 nations with a commitment to voluntary criteria in the fall of 2016; and

**Whereas**, the withdrawal of the United States abdicates the United States' leadership role throughout the world in the implementation of climate change policies and goals with corresponding benefits to the national and global economies and environment; and

**Whereas**, the Paris Climate Agreement was supported by American industry, including General Motors, Exxon Mobil, Apple, General Electric, Tesla and Walt Disney, among others which recognized the reality of climate change and the negative impacts and disadvantages of not being part of the Paris Climate Agreement; and

**Whereas**, New York State has become a national and international leader in the battle against climate change, having previously set ambitious greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets to decrease emissions 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 and 80 percent by 2050, with a commitment to renewables and guidelines, which are complementary goals to the Paris Climate Agreement; and

**Whereas**, on June 1, 2017 Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced the formation of the United States Climate Alliance in collaboration with governors from the states of California and Washington: the coalition will convene those states committed to upholding the Paris Climate Agreement and maintain New York State's role as a leader in addressing climate change; and

**Whereas**, the Adirondack Park is a "place of people and natural wonder," with an abundance of natural resources, open space and rigid constitutional safeguards in Article XIV for the Park's public lands and a Land Use and Development Plan which recognizes the complementary needs for preservation, communities, and a strong economic base for present and future generations; and

**Whereas**, the Adirondack Park is directly affected by the changing climate through catastrophic weather events, invasive species, impaired wetlands and other habitats, loss of species diversity, reductions in the winter visitation economy, and the use of coal-fired plants in the Mid-west contributing to acid rain; and

**Whereas**, stakeholders throughout the Adirondack Park including the Youth Climate Summit, local governments, non-profit organizations, and New York State have been working to alleviate contributions to and impacts from global climate change and are actively working to develop renewable energy; and

**Whereas**, the Adirondack Park serves as a model of how human activity, economic growth, and environmental stewardship can work in harmony to improve the human existence.

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved**, that the Adirondack Park Agency opposes the United States' withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement and reaffirms the Agency's commitment to achieving the goals established by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and New York State to address climate change, greenhouse gas emission reductions, and New York State's leadership in a United States Climate Change Alliance.

Resolution adopted on this date, June 9, 2017.

AYES: Sherm Craig, Chairman, Chad Dawson, John Ernst, Karen Feldman, Art Lussi, Barbara Rice, William Thomas, Brad Austin, Sandi Allen, Bob Stegemann

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Dan Wilt