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November 16, 2021

Terry Martino  
Executive Director  
NYS Adirondack Park Agency  
P.O. Box 99  
Ray Brook, NY 12977  
(Via *Electronic Submission*)

### **RE: Adirondack Council Celebrates Appointment of John Ernst as Chair of the Adirondack Park Agency Board**

The Adirondack Council cheers Governor Kathy Hochul's appointment of John Ernst as the latest chair of the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) board. Mr. Ernst has been a conservation supporter and practitioner in the Adirondacks for decades. He understands the APA's authority and its limitation, and will work for the betterment of the Park. The Governor made an excellent choice, and we wish him well in his new role.

#### Solar Planning in the Adirondack Park

We thank the APA for continuing the conversation on solar generating facilities and planning in the Adirondack Park. Working towards a cleaner future is rooted in balanced natural landscape protection and the propagation of renewable energy sources. The immediacy of climate change and its impacts demand thoughtful, intentional and planful action. As the APA works with prospective applicants and others to guide projects to sites and areas well-suited for solar development, it is important to understand the cumulative impacts solar development may have. It is imperative to proactively understand the regional ecological impacts solar developments have on natural resources and if/how they impact natural climate solutions, wildlife migration, etc, while the propagation of solar power infrastructure is still in its infancy. We urge the APA to host a public hearing as an opportunity to bring in-Park stakeholders, developers, and other state agencies together to garner expertise and feedback. Within its regulatory role and processes, the APA has the ability to set a new standard of collaboration and cooperation at a landscape scale to support the health of our natural and human communities.

In closing, the Adirondack Council appreciates the APA's ongoing conversation about solar power infrastructure in the Adirondack Park and the complexity of issues that regularly come before the Agency. Thank you for reviewing our comments.

Sincerely,

Jackie Bowen  
Associate Director of Conservation

*The mission of the Adirondack Council is to ensure the ecological integrity and wild character of the Adirondack Park for current and future generations.*

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