



Empire State Forest Products Association

The people behind New York's healthy forests and quality wood products
www.esfpa.org

47 Van Alstyne Drive / Rensselaer, New York 12144 / p: 518-463-1297 / f: 518-426-9502

Chairman
Michael J. McLarty
Finch Paper, LLC

Vice Chair
Jennifer DeFrancesco
B & B Forest Products, LTD

Treasurer
Christopher Truso
Farm Credit East

Secretary
Sarah R. Bogdanovitch
Natural Resources Consultant

Immediate Past Chair
Sean Ross
Lyme Timber Company

Executive Director
John K. Bartow, Jr.

Sarah Boggess
ReEnergy Holdings LLC

Pat Buff
B&B Lumber Co.

Timothy Burpoe, CF®
Molpus Woodlands Group, LLC.

René H. Germain, Ph.D.
SUNY ESF

Thomas E. Gerow, CF
Wagner Lumber Company

Dennis Gingles
International Paper Co.

Doug Handy
A&H Forest Management, Inc.

Michael W. Hanlon
Cotton-Hanlon, Inc.

Damon Hartman
Prentiss & Carlisle

Craig Jochum
Craig Jochum Logging

Susan Keister
Susan Keister, LLC

Elizabeth Lesnikoski
Burlington Electric

Paul Mitchell
Paul J. Mitchell Logging, Inc.

Charles Niebling
New England Wood Pellet, LLC

Jack Santamour
LandVest, Inc.

Edward G. Wright
W.J. Cox Associates, Inc.

John Zemanick
Gutchess Lumber Company

Counsel
Dennis J. Phillips, Esq.
McPhillips, Fitzgerald & Cullum

Memorandum of Support

A 492

Honorable Billy Jones
Member of Assembly
534 LOB
Albany, NY 12248

January 21, 2021

Dear Assemblyman Jones:

The Empire State Forest Products Association supports **A. 492**, legislation that approves land transactions relating to the implementation of the land exchange for the forest preserve health and safety land account and public utility improvements.

The Empire State Forest Products Association (ESFPA) represents more than 300 member businesses, industries and landowners engaged in forest resource production and stewardship of New York's 19 million acres of forest. In total, \$22.9 billion dollars in annual industry production and nearly 100,000 jobs are attributable to operations of various industries within the forest related sectors. There are more than 200,000 private forest landowners who also depend on sound forest and timber management and production to help them keep their forests as forests.

In 2017, the voters approved an amendment to Article XIV, Section 1 of the State Constitution, authorizing the creation of a 250-acre Health and Safety Land account from Forest Preserve land, to be used for bridge and highway safety, highway relocation and wells for drinking water. The amendment and its implementing legislation, as set forth in Title 21 of Article 9 of the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL), provides that before such lands may be used by municipalities in the Adirondacks and Catskills, not less than 250 acres must be acquired by the State for inclusion in the Forest Preserve, with legislative approval.

This legislation details the two parcels that will be added to the forest preserve as required by the Constitutional amendment and Title 21 of Article 9 of the ECL. The first parcel is located in the Catskills in the town of Olive in Ulster County, consisting of approximately 214 acres of land, and the second parcel is located in the Adirondacks in the Town of Moriah in Essex County, consisting of approximately 1206 acres of land. These two parcels total approximately 1,420 acres, which far exceeds the constitutional amendment and implementing legislation's 250-acre requirement.

ESFPA and its members supported the 2017 Constitutional amendment and continue to support the implementation of this legislation to make the amendment operate within the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserve. Our member businesses and residents within the Adirondacks and Catskills will benefit through safer road networks and infrastructure access to rights-of-ways.

ESFPA supports advancing this legislation to Governor Cuomo for his signature. The people and businesses of these regions have waited long enough for this implementing legislation.

cc: Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee Members

For Further Information Contact:

John K. Bartow, Jr.
Executive Director
Empire State Forest Products Association
47 Van Alstyne Dr.
Rensselaer, NY 12144
Office: (518)463-1297
Cell: (518)573-1441
jbartow@esfpa.org
www.esfpa.org