



Essex County Board of Supervisors

Resolution No. 289

October 2, 2017
Regular Board Meeting

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING STATEWIDE BALLOT
PROPOSAL NUMBER #3 THAT WILL CREATE A
LAND ACCOUNT TO ADDRESS SPECIFIC PUBLIC
HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS FOR USE BY
TOWNS, VILLAGES, AND COUNTIES HAVING NO
VIABLE ALTERNATIVE OTHER THAN USING
FOREST PRESERVE LAND**

The following resolution was offered by Supervisor McNally, who moved its adoption.

Upon the recommendation of the Ways and Means Committee of this Body, and the same appearing proper and necessary.

WHEREAS, the State Forest Preserve lands, in many instances, border local and state highways where local government needs to use a portion of that land to straighten a dangerous road, replace a culvert to prevent floods, create a safer bike path, drill a water supply well or install broadband and other critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Amendment will create a land account with up to 250 acres of Forest Preserve land eligible for use by towns, villages, and counties that have no viable alternative to using Forest Preserve land to address specific public health or safety concerns; and

WHEREAS, as in exchange for the land removed from the Forest Preserve, another 250 acres of land, will be added to the Forest Preserve, subject to Legislative approval; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Amendment also will allow bicycle trails and certain public utility lines to be located within the width of specified highways that cross the Forest Preserve while minimizing removal of trees and vegetation; and

WHEREAS, the State Constitution has been amended to allow such projects in the past requiring approval by two separately elected state legislatures and a statewide referendum; and

WHEREAS, there exists currently a NYS DOT Landbank for State Road projects which has a long standing track record of success; and

WHEREAS, If approved by voters, Ballot Proposition #3 would eliminate the time-consuming and costly bureaucratic process for completing important road maintenance, utility installation and bicycle path creation projects in the Adirondacks and Catskills , a process not faced by communities in any other part of the state; and

WHEREAS, the Amendment has wide bi-partisan support from local governments, environmental protection organizations, business groups, recreational enthusiasts and others for two simple reasons: It's for the public good and it's rooted in plain old common-sense; and

WHEREAS, this Amendment represents the best solution to long standing or continuing issues, which local Government leaders have worked for many years to resolve; and

WHEREAS, Ballot Proposal #3 warrants the support of the voters of New York State.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Essex County Board of Supervisors does hereby support Ballot Proposal Number #3, which is deemed critically important to our communities, the Forest Preserve, the environment and the People of the State of New York; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution shall be forwarded to NYSAC, Adirondack Inter-County, Western Inter-County, and all 16 Counties of the Adirondacks and Catskills.

This resolution was duly seconded by Supervisor Moore, and adopted upon a roll call vote as follows:

AYES: 2815 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 106 votes (Tyler)

STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF ESSEX)ss:

I, JUDITH A. GARRISON, Clerk of the Essex County Board of Supervisors, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy with the original resolution filed in this office on the 2nd day of October, 2017, and that it is a correct and true copy thereof.

IN TESTIMONY THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this 2nd day of October, 2017.



Judith A. Garrison
Judith A. Garrison
Clerk of the Essex County Board of Supervisors