



SARATOGA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RESOLUTION 227 - 2017

Introduced by Supervisors Johnson, Congdon, Peck, Pemrick, Raymond, Richardson, and Schopf

**SUPPORTING STATEWIDE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
BALLOT PROPOSAL #3 THAT CREATES 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**

WHEREAS, New York State Forest Preserve lands, in many instances, border local and state highways where the local government needs to use a portion of such forest preserve lands 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 Constitutional Amendment Ballot Proposal #3 will create a land account with up to 250-acres of State Forest Preserve land eligible for use by towns, villages, and counties that have no viable alternative to using State Forest Preserve land to address specific public health or safety concerns; and

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

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

WHEREAS, the New York State Constitution has been amended to allow such projects in the past, requiring approval by two separately elected NY State Legislatures and a Statewide Referendum; and

WHEREAS, there exists currently a NYS DOT landbank for NY State road projects which has a long-standing record of success; and

WHEREAS, if approved by the voters of New York State, Ballot Proposal #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 region of New York 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: 1) It is for the public good; and 2) It is rooted in plain old common sense; and

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

WHEREAS, Ballot Proposal #3 on November 7, 2017 warrants the support of all the voters of New York State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors does hereby support Ballot Proposal #3 on November 7, 2017, which is deemed critically important to our communities, the State 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 and the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages.

BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT: No budget impact.