

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 COUNCILWOMAN MAUREEN MARSDEN WHO MOVED ITS ADOPTION.

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.

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 possible 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 Town Board of the Town of North Hudson 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 NYSAC, Adirondack Inter-County, Western Inter-County, and all 16 Counties of the Adirondacks and Catskills.

This resolution was duly seconded by Councilwoman Stephanie DeZalia and adopted.