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Adirondack Wild: Friends of the Forest Preserve encourages a “Yes” vote on Proposal 3 on the ballot this November 7

The **Forest Preserve Public Health and Safety Land Account** enables public utility Improvements along local highways bordered by the “forever wild” NYS Forest Preserve. Currently, Forest Preserve frontage along local highways in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks can hinder or block highway and bridge improvements needed to enhance the safety of the traveling public as well as the location of public utilities, including broadband communications, important to local communities in rural areas of these parks.

The amendment to Article XIV, Section 1 creates a 250-acre land account for withdrawal of very small acreages of forest preserve in both Adirondack and Catskill Parks needed to eliminate dangerous highway curves and grades and for bridge improvements, and to locate water supply wells and bicycle lanes where justified. It also authorizes public utility lines limited to electric, telephone, broadband, water supply and sewer lines to be buried or co- located along such highways where forest preserve currently hinders these improvements.

“This is a very narrowly defined but compelling amendment with important public purposes of health, safety and improved utility and telecommunications,” says Adirondack Wild’s managing partner David Gibson. We strongly endorse it and encourage a “yes” vote on Nov. 7.

Legislation behind the amendment ensures that each and every application to withdraw land from the account, or each proposed co-location or burial of utilities is carefully chosen and surveyed by the locality and/or utility, is further reviewed by the Department of Environmental Conservation to ensure that the project meets all necessary criteria and addresses a problem which can be addressed in no other way, avoids or minimizes environmental impacts, allows public comment, and is exchanged for land of equal or greater value.

“This amendment will solve urgent, longstanding problems along rural highways in both Adirondack and Catskill Parks in an environmentally responsible way,” Gibson added.