

Warren County Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION NO. 273 OF 2016

Resolution introduced by Chairman Geraghty and Supervisor Simpson

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL S- 8026 AND TO AMEND ARTICLE XIV OF THE NEW YORK STATE CONSTITUTION, IN RELATION TO ESTABLISHING A LAND BANK AND SENATE BILL S- 8027 TO AMEND THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW AND THE STATE FINANCE LAW, IN RELATION TO THE REGIONAL LAND BANKS FOR PROJECTS ON STATE LAND WITHIN THE ADIRONDACK & CATSKILL PARK

WHEREAS, the location of some New York State “Forever Wild” Forest Preserve in relation to local population centers in the Adirondacks has created hardships for municipalities as they provide health, safety and welfare services to their constituents, and

WHEREAS, these hardships range from communities in which the State Forest Preserve exceeds 96% of all lands, to communities where State land intertwines with community centers, hindering attempts to address such basic needs as bridge relocation, clean drinking water, reliable electric power distribution, broadband service, proper placement of municipal buildings, safe roadways and other various circumstances which constitute severe hardship, and

WHEREAS, the State Land Master Plan clearly states the desirability of a Constitutional Amendment providing a Land Bank of modest acreage that would permit small scale land exchanges to avoid the difficult amendment process, such as those now part of Article XIV, § 1 of the New York State Constitution, and

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Legislative delegation, led by Senator Elizabeth Little and Assemblyman Dan Stec, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the Common Ground Alliance, and a working group of local government officials, environmental groups and utility companies have developed bills which would approve submission to the voters of the State of an amendment to Article XIV of the New York State Constitution to create a road and bridge land bank, and which would lead to the adoption of legislation to provide for access to the land bank for environmental infrastructure, utilities, and water wells, and codifying the right to have public utility infrastructure within road rights of ways, and

WHEREAS, the Warren County Board of Supervisors believes the proposed amendments will address many of the hardships that Adirondack & Catskill municipalities have faced as they work to provide services to their constituents, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Warren County Board of Supervisors supports Senate Bills S- 8026 and S-

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8027 to resolve these issues in a permanent way, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Warren County Board of Supervisors wishes to express its deep appreciation for the work of Senator Elizabeth Little, Assemblyman Dan Stec, Senator Hugh Farley, Senator Joseph Griffo, Assemblyman Marc Butler, Assemblywoman Janet Duprey, Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, and numerous Catskill legislators, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and all involved in the drafting of the Bills; and urges the New York State legislature to approve these Bills, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to forward copies of this resolution to Senator Elizabeth Little, Assemblyman Dan Stec, Senator Hugh Farley, Senator Joseph Griffo, Assemblyman Marc Butler, Assemblywoman Janet Duprey, Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, the New York State Association of Counties, the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board and the Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks.