To Whom it May Concern,

The following is a brief review of State administration and management of the Adirondack Forest Preserve. Forest Preserve Lands were incorporated into Article XIV of the State Constitution effective January 1, 1895. Management of the Preserve has been delegated to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

In 1970 the Governor created a new Department of Environmental Conservation, bringing together under this department all State functions pertaining to environmental protection and management of the State's natural resources, including the Adirondack Park and Forest Preserve.

In 1973, without regard for the Constitution and 1970 Law, although under the influence of public conservation ideology, the Legislature and Governor passed the Adirondack Park Agency Act. The “Act” grants the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) authority to develop a “Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan” where in are APA styled authored Forest Preserve management “Guidelines” in goals approved by the Governor. APA may mandate DEC to implement a specified guideline and maintain compliance. APA has mandated actions now underway including: (1) Closing public use of roads; (2) violating Article XIV Section 2, pertaining to Reservoir construction; (3) Emphasis on “bulk” land acquisitions to expand classified “wilderness” areas; (4) Removing and prohibiting “non-conforming” structures and facilities, yet encouraging installation of lean-tos; (5) Seeking modernization of facilities on Public Campgrounds.

Some APA actions are not in compliance with the Constitution and have usurped DEC's 125 years of traditional Forest Preserve management authority. The time has come, as is justified, to amend APA dictatorial conduct and simply welcome APA suggestions pertaining to future DEC management.

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