

Warren County Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION NO. 501 OF 2011

Resolution introduced by Supervisors Bentley, Thomas, Monroe, Girard, Sokol, McCoy and Wood

RESOLUTION REQUESTING FEDERAL AND STATE PRIORITY FUNDING FOR THE ERADICATION OF ASIAN CLAMS IN LAKE GEORGE

WHEREAS, the Lake George Asian Clam Rapid Response Task Force has reported that an invasive species known as the Asian clam was discovered in Lake George in August, 2010 and that the threat to Lake George and the Adirondack Park from the Asian clam infestation was quickly grasped by Lake George, Lake Champlain, and Adirondack Park Civic and Regulatory Communities, and

WHEREAS, it is reported that the Asian clam is capable of rapid growth and spread and that since the clams excrete a high amount of nitrogen and phosphorus, it promotes the growth of algae, and

WHEREAS, it has been reported by the Asian Clam Rapid Response Task Force (“Task Force”) that Lake Tahoe, which is also known for its exceptionally clear water, is now experiencing green algae and battling over two hundred (200) acres of Asian clams, and

WHEREAS, the Task Force also reports that the Asian clam shells provide a hard surface for zebra mussels to attach to, clog pipes, cover sandy beaches and outcompete native mollusk, and

WHEREAS, the Task Force has taken immediate action to eradicate the Asian clams from Lake George, but, unfortunately, additional infestations have been found necessitating more work and additional funding, and

WHEREAS, the Legislative and Rules Committee of the Warren County Board of Supervisors has identified possible State funds that could be used to eradicate Asian clams and has recommended contacting Federal and State Officials regarding the serious impact of the invasive Asian clam on the environment and economy of Lake George and the surrounding areas of New York State for purposes of requesting financial assistance by the raising of fees and/or the redirection of available funds to assist in the eradication and management efforts, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Warren County Board of Supervisors hereby respectfully request that Federal and State Officials take the following action as soon as possible:

- 1) redirect the use of New York State Environmental Protection Fund monies for the eradication of Asian clams in Lake George and prioritize it above the purchase of additional

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State lands to preserve an important and irreplaceable State and Local asset;

- 2) in addition to the foregoing funding or in lieu thereof that the State's budget line for invasive species be increased or dedicated to the eradication of the Asian clams in Lake George for a period of one (1) to two (2) years or until the clams are eradicated;
- 3) in addition to the foregoing funding or in lieu thereof that the Lake George Park Commission initiate a program of additional fees for boats on Lake George and dedicate the additional funds towards the eradication of Asian clams in Lake George; and
- 4) in addition to the foregoing funding or in lieu thereof that the Federal Government is hereby requested to dedicate funds from the Force Legacy Program under the United States Department of Agriculture for the eradication of Asian clams in Lake George for a period of one (1) to two (2) years or until the clams are completely eradicated,

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 Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, Senator Kristen Gillibrand, Congressman Chris Gibson, Senator Malcolm Smith, Senator Elizabeth O'C. Little, Senator Hugh Farley, Senator James L. Seward, Senator Joseph A. Griffo, Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward, Assemblywoman Janet L. Duprey, Deputy Secretary of State Dede Scozzafava, Senate Minority Leader Dean Skelos, Senator Roy J. McDonald, Assemblyman Mark Butler, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Joe Martens, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Region 5 Director Betsy Lowe, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Region 6 Director Judy Drabicki, New York State Association of Counties, United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks, the Adirondack Park Agency and the Association of Towns and Villages.