

Warren County Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION NO. 120 OF 2013

Resolution introduced by Supervisors Conover and Monroe

SUPPORTING THE ADIRONDACK PARK LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW BOARD'S RESOLUTION REGARDING THE PROPOSED GENERAL PERMIT FOR SILVICULTURAL TREATMENTS FOR SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY IN THE ADIRONDACK PARK

WHEREAS, the APA Act defines "Clearcutting" to mean any cutting of all or substantially all trees over six inches in diameter at breast height over any ten-year cutting cycle. and the APA regulations further define the term "substantially" to mean leaving less than 30 basal area feet per acre, rather than using the term "regeneration method" as defined by the Society of American Foresters which includes a number of silvicultural treatments including seed tree, coppicing, shelterwood and group selection, and

WHEREAS, current APA permitting regulations requires permits for all APA defined clearcutting over 25 acres in aggregation of patches greater than 8 acres, and

WHEREAS, the APA Act defines "Forestry use" to mean any management, including logging, of a forest, woodland or plantation and related research and educational activities, including the construction, alteration or maintenance of wood roads, skidways, landings, fences and forest drainage systems, and

WHEREAS, the proposed General Permit will encourage more forest owners to use professional forest management based upon best silvicultural practices that meets all current APA requirements, and

WHEREAS, the goal of APA oversight of forest practices should be to encourage healthy regenerated forests stocked with a mixture of high quality, desirable species, and

WHEREAS, more than 2.7 million acres of the Adirondacks are now constitutionally protected forest preserve which cannot be managed to protect these forest stands from invasive insects and disease, and

WHEREAS, the proposed General Permit recognizes that only applicants certified by the international third party certification systems monitored by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) or the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) would be eligible for the general permits, and that the goal of those certifications is to create healthy, sustainable forests, and

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WHEREAS, the proposed General Permit creates incentives for forest owners to use forest practices that will provide healthy forests for the future, and

WHEREAS, existing third party certifications employ high standards, transparency, and audits to ensure accountability, and

WHEREAS, these specific third party certifications use broader standards, such as requiring sustainable forest management that is beyond the current APA requirements, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Warren County Board of Supervisors hereby support the proposed General Permit for Silvicultural Treatments for Sustainable Forestry in the Adirondack Park, and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Andrew Cuomo; Congressman Bill Owens; Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos; Senator Elizabeth O’C. Little; Senator Hugh Farley; Senator James E. Seward; Senator Joseph A. Griffo; Senator Patty Ritchie; Senator Kathy Marchione; Assemblyman Dan Stec; Assemblywoman Janet L. Duprey; Assemblyman Tony Jordan; Assemblyman Mark Butler; Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush; NYSAC; the Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks; the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages; the Adirondack Park Agency; DEC Region 5 Director Bob Stegeman; and DEC Region 6 Director Judy Drabicki.