

# Exhibit 84



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**Date:** 6/3/2013 4:50 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Congressman Owens on NYCO Land Exchange  
**Attachments:** pastedGraphic.tiff; Letter.PDF

Dear Rob, Julia, Marc and Ken --

Enclosed is the United Steelworkers' letter issued today to Assembly Speaker Silver (and copied to Gov. Cuomo, Commissioner Martens, Sen. Little and all members of the Assembly) endorsing the NYCO Adirondack land exchange.

Best regards,

Mark Behan

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President

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**District 4**

**John E. Shinn**  
District Director

**Albert J. Polk**  
Assistant to the Director

June 3, 2013

Honorable Sheldon Silver, Speaker  
New York State Assembly  
Legislative Office Building, Room 932  
Albany, NY 12248

**RE: USW Support for S.4688/ A\_\_\_\_, Adirondack Land Exchange**

Dear Speaker Silver:

I am writing on behalf of the members of the United Steelworkers in support of the proposed Adirondack land exchange between the State of New York and NYCO Minerals Inc. I ask, in the strongest possible terms, that the bill be introduced and approved in the Assembly before the end of this legislative session. One hundred very good jobs are at stake in a depressed area of Upstate New York where there are no comparable job opportunities.

NYCO Minerals Inc. has extracted and processed minerals in Essex County for nearly 60 years. NYCO's mine in the Town of Lewis has only three or four years of mineral supply remaining. To extend the life of its business and protect jobs, NYCO has proposed a land exchange with New York State. Gov. Cuomo and the Department of Environmental Conservation support the exchange and are working closely with NYCO to effect it. The exchange requires a constitutional amendment, which was approved by the Senate and Assembly for the first time last year and now requires second passage.

NYCO proposes to provide the State of New York with wild forest lands worth \$1 million or more, adding as many as 2,000 acres to the Adirondack Forest Preserve at no taxpayer expense. In exchange, NYCO would be allowed temporary access to 200 acres of an existing Forest Preserve parcel adjacent to its existing mine. NYCO proposes to explore the subsurface this parcel - known as "Lot 8" -- for the presence of the mineral wollastonite. If a reserve believed to be there exists, NYCO proposes to capture it over a period of 8-10 years. NYCO would eventually return the entire parcel, fully reclaimed, to New York State's ownership. Even though it is public land now, Lot 8 is rarely used by the public and does not contain rare or valuable ecological communities.

Under this proposal, lands of greater recreational and environmental value would be made available to the people of New York. A recent appraisal put the value of the parcel and timber on Lot 8 at about \$100,000. NYCO's proposal would provide the State with lands having a value at

least ten times greater. DEC and NYCO are working together and consulting with Adirondack environmental organizations to identify parcels to purchase; more than 1,200 acres already have been identified. This work is continuing.

This is an urgent issue of job protection to our members. The loss of NYCO jobs in the Adirondacks would cause irreparable damage to the local economy. There are no new jobs to replace these jobs and the wages and benefits, security and stability they provide. NYCO employs more than 100 people fulltime and has an annual payroll of \$6 million. At \$53,000, the average annual salary is 53 percent higher than the median salary in Essex County. NYCO spends more than \$2 million a year with local vendors and pays more than \$200,000 in local school and property taxes. Upstate New York can ill afford to put this business in jeopardy.

In my position, I often see situations where tough choices must be made between environmental protection and industrial expansion. This is not the case here. The proposed land exchange benefits the economy and the environment. In a time when the State of New York struggles to find money for open space acquisition and economic development, this proposal accomplishes both – at no taxpayer expense.

USW respectfully requests that you take the necessary steps to have the land exchange legislation introduced and approved in the Assembly during this session so that New York voters can decide the issue at this year's General Election.

I would be pleased to discuss this in matter in person with you so that we can move forward together what is best for the environment, our members and all New Yorkers. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,



John E. Shinn  
Director, District 4  
United Steelworkers

cc: Governor Andrew Cuomo  
Senator Elizabeth Little  
Assemblyman Robert Sweeney  
DEC Commissioner Joseph Martens