



PRESS RELEASE

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PROTECT honors Steve Englebright “Legislator of the Year Award” for 2017

The State Assembly Conservation Committee Chairman was instrumental in scrutinizing and shepherding the Health and Safety Land Accounts Amendment and introduced legislation to reform APA for conservation design for major subdivisions

For more information:

Peter Bauer, Executive Director: Office 518.685.3088, Cell 518.796.0112

Lake George, NY – Protect the Adirondacks is pleased to announce that its “Legislator of the Year Award” for 2017 will be awarded to Steve Englebright, Chairman of the State Assembly Committee on Environmental Conservation. This year, Chairman Englebright sponsored a bill to require conservation design for all major subdivisions in the Adirondacks and shepherded through, and vastly improved, a new Constitutional Amendment for Health and Safety Land Accounts in the Adirondacks. Chairman Englebright has been a bright shining light in the NYS Legislature who has worked for years to staunchly defend the natural resources and environment of New York.

PROTECT will also make its “Howard Zahniser Adirondack Award 2017” to Dick Booth, a former Adirondack Park Agency Board Member and a professor in Cornell University's Department of City and Regional Planning, located within the University's College of Architecture, Art, and Planning. This award recognizes Booth's service on the APA Board from 2007 to 2016 where he distinguished himself in defense of the "forever wild" Forest Preserve and classified "Wilderness" lands in the Adirondack Park.

Steve Englebright, a geologist by profession, has served in public office since 1983, when he was first elected to the Suffolk County Legislature. There he helped protect the Long Island Pine Barrens watershed, successfully fought the opening of the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant, and pushed through programs to protect open space, which resulted in doubling the county's parklands.

Protect the Adirondacks!
PO Box 769 Lake George NY 12845 (518) 685-3088
info@protectadks.org www.protectadks.org
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Elected to the New York Assembly in 1992, Assemblyman Englebright pushed successfully for the NYS Pine Barrens Protection Act and has been a leader for the use of clean, renewable energy. He authored New York's solar and wind net-metering laws in the 1990s and successfully pushed in 2008 for the expansion of solar net-metering to include all utility customer classes. As Chairman of the Assembly Conservation Committee, he has been one of leaders of environmental protection in New York.

"Steve Englebright has worked tirelessly on behalf of the wildlife and natural resources of New York," said Chuck Clusen, Chairman of Protect the Adirondacks. "It's our great privilege to honor him and thank him for his hard work to protect the Adirondack Park, which he has always looked at and worked to defend as the state's grandest wild area."

"Over the past two years, Chairman Englebright was instrumental in shaping the proposed new 250 acre Health and Safety Land Accounts draft constitutional amendment and accompanying enabling legislation. His leadership met the needs of local communities and upheld protections of the forever wild provision while ensuring that there will be an open, accountable and transparent administration of how these Forest Preserve lands will be used in the future. His leadership was decisive and vital to the success of this amendment is gaining legislative passage," said Peter Bauer, executive director of Protect the Adirondacks. "He also introduced and worked to advance a major revision to the APA Act to require conservation design for major subdivisions in the Adirondacks."

PROTECT will make these awards at its annual meeting on July 15, 2017 at the Heaven Hill Farm in Lake Placid. Members can register for the meeting at PROTECT's website www.protectadks.org.

Howard Zahniser was a towering figure in American history who relentlessly campaigned for the National Wilderness Act, which became law in 1965. Zahniser's Wilderness advocacy brought him to investigate the forever wild protections in the NYS Constitution for the Forest Preserve, which Zahniser used as a model for the National Wilderness Act. Zahniser was so taken with the Forest Preserve and the Adirondacks that he purchased a camp in the Town of Johnsburgh near the Siamese Ponds Wilderness area that his family continues to use today.

Protect the Adirondacks

Protect the Adirondacks, Inc. (PROTECT) is a privately funded, IRS-approved not-for-profit organization dedicated to the protection of the 6-million-acre Adirondack Park in northern New York. PROTECT was formed through the merger of the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks and the Residents' Committee to Protect the Adirondacks in 2009. PROTECT pursues its mission to protect the Adirondack Park and defend the public "forever wild" Forest Preserve through citizen advocacy, grassroots organizing, education, research, and legal action. PROTECT is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. PROTECT maintains an office in Lake George. For more information see www.protectadks.org.

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