

Exhibit 50



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From: Robert Davies
To: bhouseal@adirondackcouncil.org
Date: 6/15/2012 12:40 PM
Subject: NYCO
Attachments: 2012 04 Hallman letter_2.pdf

Brian, Just came across this in my files. I am glad to see that the Council was supportive of NYCO as long ago as April 18, 2012. Looking forward to hearing from you later today.

Robert K. Davies
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The mission of the ADIRONDACK COUNCIL is to ensure the ecological integrity and wild character of the ADIRONDACK PARK for current and future generations.

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April 18, 2012

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Mr. Robert Hallman
Deputy Secretary, Energy and Environment
The Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Deputy Secretary Hallman:

Thank you for the time you took last Friday to meet with Adirondack Council Board members Ann Carmel and Rick Reinhold and me to share perspectives on the Adirondack Park and opportunities over the coming year.

We are hopeful that the Cuomo administration is committed to the timely completion of the final phase of the 161,000-acre Finch-Pryun land acquisition from the Nature Conservancy. As you know, 92,000 acres have already been sold to the Danish pension fund, ATP, with working forest easements and a twenty-year fiber harvest agreement, thereby retaining dozens of forestry and manufacturing jobs. Other lands have also been sold to local communities for expansion of their developable lands and snowmobile trails. The Nature Conservancy is already preserving the remaining 65,000 acres, but the state needs to acquire it as Forest Preserve for it to be opened to the public.

We recognize that there are a few vocal opponents to any further acquisition of Forest Preserve lands. The assertion that this Forest Preserve acquisition will eliminate forestry jobs is incorrect. The globalization of the world economy, highly mechanized logging operations, loss of regional lumber mills, paper plants and furniture manufacturing, and the electronic transformation of traditional print industries has had a far more profound impact. The Finch lands designated to become Forest Preserve are not only difficult to log due to their topography, but are much more important for their biological diversity and recreational values.

The Conservancy and the DEC are to be commended for their balanced approach in already placing two thirds of the Finch properties in working forest easements, with the remaining third as Forest Preserve. Their efforts to secure agreements with every one of the 27 communities affected by the Finch deal is new model for public participation and support for state land and easement acquisitions. The DEC's recent initiative to plan for 'wild land complexes' will set the Finch parcels within a large landscape context of other contiguous Forest Preserve units and involve local communities in the land classification and development of integrated motorized and non-motorized, land and water trails, and other public use facilities.



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SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE

With our US-wide membership, the Adirondack Council knows there is strong national, state and local support for this acquisition. As public access is opened along the Hudson River corridor and other areas in the central Adirondacks for the first time in 150 years, opportunities abound for new year-round recreation and tourism businesses and much-needed jobs. We would like to underscore that this is an important economic and environmental opportunity for the Adirondacks. The Adirondack Council will assist Governor Cuomo in any appropriate manner to secure the remaining Finch lands for the Forest Preserve and ensure that this outstanding natural heritage becomes a legacy for future generations of New Yorkers and visitors to our state.

On other Adirondack topics, we understand that the Cuomo administration would like to undertake two Constitutional Amendments over the coming years. In particular, a resolution for the contested lands of Township 40 would be a major achievement for the Town of Long Lake in Hamilton County after 100 years of failed attempts. We believe that the Governor's leadership can bring together the local land owners, the state agencies, environmental organizations and our legislators to gain first passage during the current legislative session. In a similar manner, the expansion of the NYCO wollastonite mine onto Forest Preserve lands in the Town of Lewis, Essex County requires a Constitutional Amendment, but will also ensure the continuance of approximately 120 much-needed jobs in the local communities. The Adirondack Council was instrumental in advocating for full passage of similar amendments important to Adirondack economy, including the recent Route 56 NYPA power line to Tupper Lake, and the Raquette Lake water supply in the Town of Long Lake. Once again, we stand ready to assist in securing the passage of the two proposed amendments.

Finally, we are gratified to learn from you that the Cuomo administration is willing to consider reforms to the Adirondack Park Agency during next year's legislative session. After the 7 ½ year review of the proposed Adirondack Club and Resort project in Tupper Lake by the APA, all involved parties agree that reforms to the agency's rules and regulations are urgently needed. We are recommending changes that would make the APA's review process less time-consuming and costly for New York's taxpayers, provide more certainty for project applicants, and clarify and update environmental protections for water, wildlife and working forests. The Adirondack Council is committed to working with the executive agencies and legislature to achieve them.

We greatly appreciate Governor Cuomo's interest in the Adirondack Park and the North Country. His personal attention and the state agencies' actions in restoring transportation routes and caring for flood victims in the aftermath of tropical storms Irene and Lee will long be remembered by our local communities. The recent award of \$103 million to the North Country Regional Economic Development Council is also outstanding evidence that the state understands the challenge of sustaining our rural communities.

Once again, thank you for meeting with us. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information on the Adirondack Park.

Best regards,



Brian L. Houseal
Executive Director