



PRESS RELEASE

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PROTECT Applauds 2016-17 State Budget

State approves \$300 million EPF in state budget, significant boost to funding for land protection, invasive species control and state land stewardship

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Lake George, NY – Protect the Adirondacks applauds the New York State budget being passed in Albany. This budget contains enhanced environmental funding in a \$300 million Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). Programs important to the Adirondack Park that received higher levels of funding include land protection (\$40 million), invasive species control (\$12 million), state land stewardship (\$28 million), and climate smart community programs (\$14 million).

“Protect the Adirondacks applauds Governor Cuomo and the State Legislature for funding the EPF at an historic high level. This funding will greatly benefit the rural communities and forever wild Forest Preserve across the Adirondacks,” said Peter Bauer, Executive Director of Protect the Adirondacks. “This marks a recognition of the tremendous environmental threats facing New York and the great opportunities to protect open space, improve public recreation on state lands, and combat invasive species.”

The EPF funds a variety of environmental programs such as land acquisition, farmland protection, invasive species prevention and eradication, waterfront revitalization, solid waste management, state lands stewardship, and environmental justice projects, among other things.

One major drawback is that environmental spending at the Adirondack Park Agency and Department of Environmental Conservation was kept flat. Both agencies have been called upon to do with less for a number of years and the Adirondack Park would benefit from funding increases for both agencies.

Protect the Adirondacks

Protect the Adirondacks 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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