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RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SNOWMOBILING AND INCREASING SNOWMOBILE TRAIL MILES IN THE ADIRONDACKS

WHEREAS, snowmobiling is a critically important part of the Adirondack winter economy; and,

WHEREAS, on July 26, 1972, Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller issued a press release, upon signing the Adirondack State Land Master Plan (SLMP), that states in part that about 20 miles of snowmobile trails in areas classified as Wilderness by the SLMP will be closed, and replaced in areas outside the Wilderness and Primitive classified land, and that an additional 930 miles of snowmobile trails located in other classifications will remain; and,

WHEREAS, since the SLMP was adopted in 1972, the State of New York has purchased nearly 350,000 additional acres of Forest Preserve land, which at the time of purchase had many miles of community Snowmobile trails that were not part of the State snowmobile trail system; and,

WHEREAS, the State Land Master Plan does not create a cap on snowmobile trail mileage, but states there will be no material increase in snowmobile trail mileage that existed in 1972, allowing for snowmobile trails on newly acquired State lands to remain; and,

WHEREAS, the arbitrary 848.88 miles of snowmobile trail miles that DEC and APA use as a cap is not supported by Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller's promise to the people of the State of New York in 1972, which assured the people of the State of New York that they would have a minimum of 950 miles of snowmobile trails in the Adirondacks; and,

WHEREAS, DEC has, during Unit Management Plan adoption called for the closing of snowmobile trails for various reasons, while identifying replacement snowmobile trails; and,

WHEREAS, upon adoption of the Unit Management Plans the targeted snowmobile trails are closed, leaving the people of the State of New York waiting years in some cases for the replacement trails to be built;

RESOLVED, the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board hereby calls upon DEC and APA to abandon the snowmobile mileage cap, allowing any snowmobile trails on State Lands acquired after 1972 to remain as long as those lands are not Wilderness or Primitive; and it is further,

RESOLVED, the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board calls upon DEC to stop the practice of closing snowmobile trails identified in Unit Management Plans, for replacement, until the new trails are built and ready for use; and it is further,

RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Governor Andrew Cuomo, DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos, Senate Leader Majority Stewart-Cousins, Senate Minority Leader Flanagan, Assembly Speaker Heastie, All Adirondack State Legislators and Town Supervisors, All Adirondack Counties, the Association of Adirondack Towns & Villages.