



**RESOLUTION 2011-2**  
**IN RECOGNITION OF EARTH DAY APRIL 24, 2011**  
**INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FORESTS 2011**

**Whereas**, Earth Day has for the past forty-one years reminded us of our collective responsibility to protect the environment, recognize our interdependence with the natural world and its people, conserve natural resources, and live in a manner respectful of the Earth and its habitats; and

**Whereas**, in the forty-first year of Earth Day, the United Nation's General Assembly has recognized 2011 as the International Year of Forests; and

**Whereas**, in the 1885 establishment of the Forest Preserve, the 1892 creation of the Adirondack Park, and the subsequent Article XIV constitutional protection of public forest lands as "Forever Wild" in 1894, New York State has demonstrated extraordinary leadership in the recognition of the need for the protection of Adirondack forests and a Park landscape that combines the attributes of open space and communities; and

**Whereas**, since 1973, the Adirondack Park Agency has administered the Adirondack Park Agency Act with the goal of insuring "optimal overall conservation, protection, development and use of the unique scenic, aesthetic, wildlife, recreational, open space, historic, ecological and natural resources of the Adirondack Park;" and

**Whereas**, the Adirondack Park, with its mosaic of public and private lands, including more than 2,500,000 acres of public Forest Preserve lands and 1,685,600 acres of private forested land, is the largest area of protected and managed temperate hardwood forests in North America, and is recognized as one of the Earth's special regions amidst the approximately 26 million acre Northern Forest across New York, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine; and

**Whereas**, the Adirondack Park and its forested landscape includes 103 towns and villages which are home to 132,000 residents who benefit from a unique interdependence on the natural resource base and forestlands of the Park; and

**Whereas**, the forests and understory vegetation define the landscape of the Adirondack Park with picturesque, towering deciduous and coniferous trees including birch, cherry, maple, pine, balsam fir, hemlock and spruce, and provide clean air and water, open space, wildlife habitat, biological diversity and carbon sequestration; and

**Whereas**, the working forests of the Park contribute to the Park's economy with the historical and present traditions of lumber camps, river log drives, paper mills, and employment in the forest management industry, including timber and biomass harvesting, milling and wood products manufacturing; and

**Whereas**, the public forests of the Park contribute to the abundance of nature-based tourism and world-class recreational opportunities for residents and millions of visitors to the Park; and

**Whereas**, the Adirondack Park, its communities and its forested landscape experience the modern-day threats of global climate change, acid deposition, and invasive species, and are impacted by a global economy, changes in forest-based industries, inadequate infrastructure, and uncertain fiscal and economic conditions; and

**Whereas**, the Adirondack Park Agency acknowledges that resource protection and economic improvement are interdependent and mutually beneficial and protected forestlands contribute to open space, community viability and quality of life; and

**Whereas**, in recognition of the interdependence and diversity of all life which shares in the habitats and forestlands of the Earth, and the recognition that, now, more than ever, there is a shared responsibility of government, business, institutions and individual citizens to protect the forests of the Park;

**Now, therefore, be it resolved,** the Adirondack Park Agency, in recognition of Earth Day and the International Year of Forests 2011, expresses appreciation and celebration of the significance of the Adirondack Park, its forestlands, and communities, and urges close collaboration and understanding among the Agency and public and private stakeholders in the important task of forestland management and protection and enhancement of the Adirondack Park for the benefit of its residents, visitors, the State of New York and the World.

Resolution approved by acclamation on this date, April 14, 2011.

Members Present: R. Booth, F. Mezzano, C. Stiles, W. Thomas, F. W. Valentino, C. Wray, J. Fayle (DED), E. Lowe (DEC), D. Scozzafava (DOS)