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**RESOLUTION # 1 of 2011 IN OPPOSITION TO FEE PURCHASE  
OF FORMER FINCH AND FOLLENSBY POND LANDS**

**Whereas**, the State of New York (state) plans to purchase more than 60,000 acres of the former Finch Pruyn (Finch) timberlands in fee from the Nature Conservancy (TNC), and

**Whereas**, the state plans to purchase 15,000 acres of the Follensby Pond timberlands in fee from TNC, and

**Whereas**, DEC Lands and Forests Director Rob Davies estimated in a recent article entitled *The Economic Importance and Wood Flows from New York's Forests, 2007* in a North East State Foresters Association Report that working forest supports 3 forestry related jobs for every 1,000 acres of productive forest lands, and that the same 1000 acres will support only .8 of a tourism job, and

**Whereas**, if the 75,000 acres of the former Finch and Follensby Pond lands are purchased in fee, 225 forestry related jobs will be lost, and only 60 tourism related jobs will be created, and

**Whereas**, the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) is charged with the responsibility of determining state agency compliance with the Adirondack State Land Master Plan (SLMP), and

**Whereas**, the SLMP provides that: "(D)ue to the importance of the forest products industry to the economy of the Adirondack region, bulk acreage purchases in fee should not normally be made where highly productive forest land is involved, unless such land is threatened with development that would curtail its use for forestry purposes or its value for the preservation of open space or of wildlife habitat."; and

**Whereas**, The former Finch lands and the Follensby Pond lands are both highly productive forest lands, and neither are threatened with imminent development; and

**Whereas**, there are currently 20 recreational leases on the former Finch lands with approximately 200 hunting and fishing cabins providing traditional recreation to thousands of members and guests, revenue to TNC for the payment of real property taxes and maintenance of those lands, and millions of dollars of revenues for Adirondack businesses from club and member expenditures for equipment and supplies; and

**Whereas**, fee purchase by the state will result in the Finch and Follensby lands becoming Forever Wild forest lands, the loss of the 20 recreational leases, the destruction of hunting and fishing cabins, the net loss of 165 forestry related jobs, the loss of spin off jobs in the affected communities, the loss of club and members expenditures to businesses in the community, and the loss of practical access to remote areas of the purchased lands; and

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**MEMBERS**

Clinton County: Gerald Delaney, Sr., Howard Aubin • Essex County: George Canon, Cathy Moses, John Paradis • Franklin County: Brian McDonnell, Tim Burpoe\*, Jim Frenette\* • Fulton County: Linda Kemper, David Howard • Hamilton County: Ermina Pincombe, Brian Towers  
Herkimer County: Linda Eykelhoff • St. Lawrence County: Frederick Morrill, Mark Hall • Saratoga County: Bruce Brownell, Sylvia Parker  
Warren County: Ralph Bentley, Kevin Geraghty • Washington County: Robert Banks, John LaPointe  
Secretary Carol A. Monroe, [carolmonroe@nycap.rr.com](mailto:carolmonroe@nycap.rr.com) • P.O. Box 579, Chestertown, NY 12817 • Tel: (518) 494-3607 • Fax: (518) 494-5472

\*Alternate



**Whereas,** the purchase of the Follensby lands will be partially funded by federal Forest Legacy program funds originally designed to purchase and protect working forests, rather than Forever Wild fee lands where forestry is prohibited; and

**Whereas,** fee purchase of the Finch and Follensby lands by the state will result in impairment of the State's ability to respond to invasive species infestations, the inability of DEC to properly maintain and manage newly acquired lands due to staff reductions, and the inability of any entity to participate in the carbon credit market, and

**Whereas,** the state will be required, by the Real Property Tax Law, to pay taxes on the former Finch and Follensby lands as if privately owned, if they are acquired in fee; and

**Whereas,** the funds to pay real property taxes come from the general fund, rather than the Environmental Protection Fund which is supported by revenues other than State income taxes; and

**Whereas,** the APA is required to insure state agency compliance with the SLMP and to engage in a continuing planning process which recognizes matters of local concern; and

**Whereas,** in these dire financial times, with the state facing bankruptcy, losses of thousands of state jobs, which will surely include Corrections Officers in the North Country, the priorities of the state should not include buying any more land, when people are facing job losses and local government will be seeing cuts in aid from the state; and

**Whereas,** the necessities of life should come first - not more land buys when we already have millions of acres in state hands. The role of private conservation groups like TNC should not be as a real estate broker for the state. Their continued stewardship, as a well-funded private conservation organization with billions in assets should be about stewarding the land, not being the acquisition department of New York State subsidized by the taxpayers of New York;

**Now, therefore, it is hereby;**

**Resolved** that the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board (Review Board) opposes the fee acquisition by the state of the former Finch and Follensby Pond lands; urges the APA to insure compliance with the SLMP by recommending against the DEC fee purchase of highly productive timberland; and urges Governor Cuomo to direct that the state not purchase of the former Finch and Follensby lands; and it is further

**Resolved** that the Review Board requests Governor Cuomo to order a study of the economic and social impacts of state land acquisitions in the Adirondacks before any additional purchases of state lands are authorized, and it is further

**Resolved** that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Andrew Cuomo, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Senator Chuck Schumer, Congressman Chris Gibson, Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos, Senator Elizabeth Little, Senator Hugh Farley, Senator James Seward, Senator Joseph Griffo, Senator Roy McDonald, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward, Assemblywoman Janet Duprey, Assemblyman David Townsend, DEC Commissioner Joe Martens, DEC Region 5 Director Betsy Lowe, DEC Region 6 Director Judy Drabicki, the Twelve counties of the Adirondacks, the Adirondack Park Agency and the Association of Towns and Villages.