



## **Memorandum in Support**

**Bill:** A. 10721 by Assembly member Englebright

**Title:** Concurrent Resolution of the Senate and the Assembly proposing an amendment to article 14 of the constitution, in relation to allowing public utility lines and bicycle paths on certain state lands in the forest preserve and establishing a forest preserve health and safety land account.

### **The Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) Supports this Legislation**

If enacted into law, this legislation would permit in the Forest Preserve of the Adirondack Park and the Catskill Park public utility lines (limited to electric, telephone, broadband, water or sewer lines) to be buried or co-located in the widths of state, county, or town highways. This legislation would also permit bicycle paths to be constructed and maintained within the widths of highways.

This legislation also creates a Forest Preserve Health and Safety Land Account which may be used to eliminate bridge hazards, dangerous curves and grades on county or town highways; the relocation and reconstruction and maintenance of roads up to 1 mile in length; and for water wells and necessary appurtenances when necessary to meet drinking water quality standards. The creation of the Forest Preserve Health and Safety Land Account is predicated on the acquisition of additional land for incorporation into the Forest Preserve that is determined by the legislature to be at least equal in value to lands used for projects as part of the Forest Preserve Health and Safety Land Account.

The nearly 30,000 members of the Adirondack Mountain Club care deeply for the Forest Preserve and feel strongly that the environmental integrity of these special lands must be protected. We also realize that public safety concerns along the roadways throughout the Catskill and Adirondack Forest Preserve must be addressed for residents and visitors. Concurrent Resolution A10721 protects the Forest Preserve and allows for the correction of public safety issues.

### **The Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) Supports this Legislation**