



Memorandum in Support

Bill: S2594 by Senator Marcellino
A5180 by Assembly member Fahy

Title: AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, the state finance law and the tax law, in relation to transfers from the environmental protection fund to the general fund

The Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) Strongly Supports this Legislation.

This legislation requires the Division of the Budget and the State Comptroller to develop a plan for repayment to the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) for monies transferred from the EPF to the general fund over the next 5 years.

The Environmental Protection Fund is a critical source of funding for New York State environmental initiatives. Due to state budgetary needs, funding that was allocated to the EPF has been swept into the general fund, depleting the monies that so many environmental programs rely upon greatly.

Since it was created in 1993, the EPF has provided hundreds of millions of dollars for projects ADK's 28,000 members care about including protecting open space, revitalizing waterfronts, supporting recycling, preserving farmland, enhancing water quality, combating aquatic invasive species, and helping to connect New Yorkers with the outdoors. Investing in the EPF makes economic sense because for every \$1 the Fund invests, \$7 is returned to New York State. Through various programs, the EPF supports more than 350,000 jobs across a spectrum of industries, including outdoor tourism, agriculture, and protecting drinking water for millions of New Yorkers. All told, EPF-supported industries generate approximately \$40 billion every year.

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