

2019 Memorandum in Opposition

Bill: S2527 by Senator Little and A4663 by Assemblymember Stec

Title: Relates to development of a permit system to provide disabled veterans access to certain restricted bodies of water through the use of float planes.

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

This legislation amends the executive law and the environmental conservation law, in relation to development of a permit system to provide disabled veterans access to certain restricted bodies of water through the use of float planes.

It is very disappointing that the sponsors of this bill are using Military Veterans with disabilities as a way to open Wilderness areas to motorized use.

This bill clearly has as its highest priority the undermining of the New York State Constitution Article 14 'Forever Wild' Protections. It ignores and attempts to undermine the successful Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Motorized Access Program for People with Disabilities (MAPPWD), Commissioner's Policy #3¹ which is a successful program for people with disabilities in that it "provides access for those who seek solitude, connection to nature, undisturbed wildlife habitat, and inclusion with fellow sportspeople."²

This legislation attempts to force a rewriting of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan that would, in effect, destroy the Wilderness Classification in New York State. It would use disabled veterans to destroy the very experience that they seek.

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

¹ <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/2574.html>

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/76213.html>

² <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/2574.html>