

## 2019 Memorandum in Support

**Bill:** A8098 by Assembly Member Barrett and S4876-A by Senator Metzger

**Title:** Includes the Asian longhorned tick on the invasive species list.

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

This legislation would amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to including the Asian longhorned tick on the invasive species list; and the agriculture and markets law, in relation to requiring the preparation of recommendations for best practices in treating livestock and farm properties for Asian longhorned tick treatment, prevention, and management.

Asian longhorned tick (*Haemaphysalis longicornis*) represents a significant threat to New York live-stock. The Asian longhorned tick is the first new invasive species of ticks to enter the United States in 50 years.<sup>1</sup> It is currently found in eight states including parts of New York. As the climate continues to warm, their geographic reach will continue to expand across the Eastern seaboard.<sup>2</sup> The Asian longhorned tick can rapidly reproduce asexually, laying thousands of eggs at a time allowing for rapid proliferation.<sup>3</sup> They are attracted to and can transmit diseases to livestock such as sheep, cattle, and horses. In Asia, the species carries a virus that kills 15 percent of victims through hemorrhaging, organ failure, and blood loss.<sup>4</sup> Including the species on the New York State Invasive Species List will help to stop the spread of this new pest. Through the development of best practices this legislation will help farmers become aware of the dangers of the Asian longhorned tick and will provide sound practices to treat farm properties for prevention and management.<sup>5</sup> The proposed legislation will help communities manage or eradicate ticks that contribute to tick-borne diseases.

The Asian longhorned tick also poses a threat to humans. The tick carries harmful bacteria, including *Borrelia*, which can cause Lyme disease, and *Rickettsia japonica*, which can cause Japanese spotted fever. The Asian longhorned tick can also transmit the virus that causes a human hemorrhagic fever as well as Heartland and Powassan viruses.<sup>6</sup>

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

- 
- <sup>1</sup> <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/2018/12/new-invasive-tick-spreading-through-united-states/>
  - <sup>2</sup> <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/2018/12/new-invasive-tick-spreading-through-united-states/>
  - <sup>3</sup> <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2018/11/cdc-worrisome-longhorned-tick-spreading-rapidly-us>
  - <sup>4</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/06/health/asian-long-horned-tick.html>
  - <sup>5</sup> <https://extension.psu.edu/asian-longhorned-tick-haemaphysalis-longicornis>
  - <sup>6</sup> <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2018/11/cdc-worrisome-longhorned-tick-spreading-rapidly-us>