

## 2019 Memorandum in Support

**Bill:** A5035 by Assembly Member Fahy and S4416 by Senator Kaplan

**Title:** Requires the empire state development corporation to create a plan regarding multi-use trails

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

This legislation would require the Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC) to create a plan regarding multi-use trails in consultation with the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Transportation (DOT).

Non-motorized trail systems have proven to have important economic benefits for the communities around them. For example, the Erie Canalway Trail has an estimated impact of \$253 million in sales, 3,440 jobs, \$78 million in labor income, and \$28.5 million in tax revenue.<sup>1</sup> Non-motorized trails, including multi-use trail systems are part of the National Outdoor Recreation Economy, which nationwide generates 7.6 million direct jobs, \$887 billion in consumer spending, \$65.3 billion in federal tax revenue, and \$59.2 billion in state and local tax revenue.<sup>2</sup>

There are over 1,000 miles of front-country multi-use trails in New York,<sup>3</sup> (as well as thousands of miles of backcountry trails statewide).<sup>4</sup> The construction of the Empire State Trail will add 750 miles of multi-use trail across the state, from Buffalo to Albany, and New York City to Canada. Although, there is careful planning of trails on New York State public lands in unit management plans, there needs to be a coordinated statewide planning effort to link existing and potential individual non-motorized, frontcountry multi-use trail corridors into an interconnected system.

A5035 and S4416 propose linking thousands of miles of scenic rivers and streams, lakeshores, canals, historic roadways, and abandoned railroad corridors, plus hundreds of appealing cities, towns and villages in a 10-year plan to build connectivity in regional trail networks, enhance the economic impact of existing trails and create sustainable opportunities for tourism, recreation, and healthy lifestyles.

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

- 
- <sup>1</sup> [https://www.ptny.org/application/files/2714/4604/5359/Economic\\_Impact\\_of\\_the\\_Erie\\_Canalway\\_Trail\\_Full\\_Document.pdf](https://www.ptny.org/application/files/2714/4604/5359/Economic_Impact_of_the_Erie_Canalway_Trail_Full_Document.pdf)
- <sup>2</sup> <https://outdoorindustry.org/advocacy/>
- <sup>3</sup> <https://www.ptny.org/explore/trailfinder-map>
- <sup>4</sup> <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/4960.html>
- [https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands\\_forests\\_pdf/spsfmfinal.pdf](https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/spsfmfinal.pdf)