

2020 Memorandum in Support

Bill: S5612-A by Senator Harckham and A8349 by Assembly Member Ryan

Title: An act to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to the protection of certain streams.

The Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) Supports this Legislation.

This legislation would amend section 15-0501 of the environmental conservation law to provide protection for classes of waterways that have not been afforded the protection given to other classes of waterways defined as streams.

Class "C" waterways, which are regularly used by people for boating, fishing, and other activities, are not currently afforded the protection that is provided to waterways classified as streams. Because of the close contact people have with class "C" waterways, listing them as streams will allow for their protection. Only the waterways of a "C" classification that support trout populations or trout spawning have been given protection up to this point.

New York's freshwater resources are critical for wildlife and human communities. Rivers, streams, and lakes of all sizes and characteristics provide important services for agriculture, industry, recreation and of course for drinking water. Healthy, intact watersheds protect against flooding filter harmful pollutants, and provide flow for surface waters and recharge groundwater aquifers. Streams of all sizes and attributes also provide important habitat for species adapting to a changing and warming environment and climate.

The Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) Supports this Legislation.