



SUPPORT

S. 2414 (Little)

Constitutional Amendment Authorizing Public Utility Lines and Bike Paths in Forest Preserves

The New York League of Conservation Voters supports S. 2414 (Little), which would allow for the establishment of public utility lines and bicycle paths on certain lands in state forest preserves.

Presently, New York State lands held as forest preserves in many Adirondack counties are prohibited from being leased, sold, or exchanged to a public or private corporation. It is therefore a lengthy, costly, and generally cumbersome process to create public utility lines, bike paths, and other similar projects that benefit the public on these lands. The Amendment alters the provisions of Article XIV of the NYS Constitution, allowing such projects to be sited within the width of highways that traverse the state lands.

The Amendment would also create a ‘health and safety land bank’ of 500 acres and 250 acres respectively, in the Adirondacks and the Catskills, allowing certain state, private, and municipally-owned lands to serve as sites for projects that “promote public health, safety, and welfare”. The Amendment would expedite the establishment of such projects by reducing unnecessary administrative burden, especially in areas of limited resources and capacity.

This legislation would hasten the process of siting projects that benefit the public on New York State forest preserves in the Adirondacks, allowing for the creation of more health, safety, and economic development projects. NYLCV therefore supports S. 2414 and urges its passage.

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