



# Empire State Forest Products Association

*The people behind New York's healthy forests and quality wood products*

*www.esfpa.org*

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## Memorandum of Support

### A 1314

Honorable Billy Jones  
Member of Assembly  
551 LOB  
Albany, NY 12248

February 4, 2023

Dear Assemblyman Jones:

The Empire State Forest Products Association supports **A. 1314**, legislation that approves land transactions relating to the implementation of the land exchange for the forest preserve health and safety land account and public utility improvements.

The Empire State Forest Products Association (ESFPA) represents more than 300 member businesses, industries and landowners engaged in forest resource production and stewardship of New York's 19 million acres of forest. In total, \$22.9 billion dollars in annual industry production and nearly 100,000 jobs are attributable to operations of various industries within the forest related sectors. There are more than 200,000 private forest landowners who also depend on sound forest and timber management and production to help them keep their forests as forests.

In 2017, the voters approved an amendment to Article XIV, Section 1 of the State Constitution, authorizing the creation of a 250-acre Health and Safety Land account from Forest Preserve land, to be used for bridge and highway safety, highway relocation and wells for drinking water. The amendment and its implementing legislation, as set forth in Title 21 of Article 9 of the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL), provides that before such lands may be used by municipalities in the Adirondacks and Catskills, not less than 250 acres must be acquired by the State for inclusion in the Forest Preserve, with legislative approval.

This legislation details the two parcels that will be added to the forest preserve as required by the Constitutional amendment and Title 21 of Article 9 of the ECL. The first parcel is located in the Catskills in the town of Olive in Ulster County, consisting of approximately 214 acres of land, and the second parcel is located in the Adirondacks in the Town of Moriah in Essex County, consisting of approximately 1206 acres of land. These two parcels total approximately 1,420 acres, which far exceeds the constitutional amendment and implementing legislation's 250-acre requirement.

ESFPA and its members supported the 2017 Constitutional amendment and continue to support the implementation of this legislation to make the amendment operate within the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserve. Our member businesses and residents within the Adirondacks and Catskills will benefit through safer road networks and infrastructure access to rights-of-ways.

ESFPA supports advancing this legislation to Governor Hochul for her signature. The people and businesses of these regions have waited long enough for this implementing legislation.

cc: Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee Members

**For Further Information Contact:**

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