

Troy Record
October 6, 2009

Adirondack Council report praises Cuomo

By The Record

ELIZABETHTOWN – Attorney General Andrew Cuomo received his second consecutive perfect rating from the Adirondack Council’s State of the Park Report today, collecting praise for his work striking down weak Bush Administration air pollution standards.

“Attorney General Cuomo was also singled out for warning wind power companies that he was watching them after his investigators revealed that some companies had bribed and intimidated local officials when seeking permission to construct wind turbines in rural Upstate communities,” said Adirondack Council Executive Director Brian L. Houseal. “He received a perfect five favorable ratings, with no unfavorable ratings, in last year’s report. This year, he earned four thumbs-up ratings and zero thumbs-down ratings.”

State of the Park 2009 is the 24th annual edition of the organization’s comprehensive review of actions by local, state and federal government officials that helped or hurt the ecological health and scenic beauty of the Adirondack Park .

The illustrated, 18-page magazine-style report is available for free from the Council by calling 1-877-873-2240 or can be viewed for free online at

www.adirondackcouncil.org .

Also receiving praise in the Adirondack Council’s publication were the Adirondack Park Agency (8 to 3), the Department of Environmental Conservation (10 to 4) and individual Local Government leaders (7 to 4).

The State Legislature received its highest marks in years for what it accomplished when both houses worked together. Taken individually, however, the Senate’s rating dropped to 3 to 3 , while the Assembly maintained a rating of five favorable mentions to two unfavorable.

“Governor Paterson received praise for his recent proposal to curb carbon dioxide emissions,” Houseal explained. “He also won praise for making solid appointments to the Adirondack Park Agency and U.S. Senate and for signing the new Bigger Better Bottle Bill.

“The Adirondack Council’s criticism of the governor stemmed from his proposal to cap the state’s property tax payments in communities that host Adirondack Forest Preserve,” Houseal said. “In addition, he participated in large raids on the state’s Environmental Protection Fund and advanced a plan that would have removed the EPF’s most stable funding source, replacing it with an untried revenue source.

He also offered to provide extra carbon dioxide allowances to companies that complained about the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, and we were troubled by his announcement that he would review state environmental regulations and throw out the unpopular ones.”

Local governments earned an 8 to 3 rating, garnering more praise than criticism from the Adirondack Council for the 11th consecutive year.

“Several Adirondack local governments can boast of extraordinary achievements this year, doing things that we wish the state Legislature would do Park-wide or statewide,” Houseal said.

“I am pleased to report that Adirondack communities are showing real leadership on the major environmental issues of our time,” Houseal said. “There was a time when it seemed like environmental organizations only argued with local government officials in the Adirondacks . Those days are over.”

The Adirondack Council is a not-for-profit, non-partisan environmental research, education and advocacy organization dedicated to ensuring the ecological integrity and wild character of New York ’s 9,300-square mile Adirondack Park . The Council is funded solely through private donations and doesn’t accept government grants or taxpayer-funded contributions of any kind. The Council does not endorse candidates for public office.

State of the Park is released each year before Election Day, to provide objective information on current public officials and their recent policy decisions to Adirondack Council members in all 50 United States . It is available for free to the general public.