

Watertown Daily Times
April 15, 2010

EDITORIAL

Good sign

Bipartisanship at work in Legislature

Upstate Democrats and Republicans have apparently found room for agreement on one issue: a pending appointment to the Adirondack Park Agency.

Differences over the nomination of Peter Hornbeck to the Adirondack Park Agency surfaced in the Post-Standard in an exchange of letters between Sen. David Valesky of Oneida and John F. Sheehan, director of communications for the Adirondack Council.

Mr. Sheehan criticized Sen. Valesky, a Democrat, for opposing Mr. Hornbeck of Minerva at the request of Sen. Betty Little of Queensbury, a member of the Senate minority. Mr. Sheehan cited Mr. Hornbeck's environmental credentials with support of local businesses, Gov. David A. Paterson and Minerva officials.

Sen. Valesky responded with a defense of his position, referring to opposition from "several colleagues on both sides of the aisle" as well as the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages.

In a sign of good governance, Sen. David Valesky also cited specific support from fellow Democrat Sen. Darrel Aubertine, Republican Sen. Joseph Griffo of Rome and Sen. Little.

Whether Mr. Hornbeck is suited for the appointment is a matter for the Legislature to determine. However, it is refreshing to see a coalition of Democrats and Republicans willing to work together for what they see as the best interests of New York.