

WNBZ

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Green Group Lauds APA, Blasts Sayward and Lewis County

In its annual State of the Park – which outlines the organization’s opinion on regionally relevant elected officials and agencies prior to the general election – the Adirondack Council praised the Adirondack Park Agency and numerous state officials.

And the council didn’t hesitate to take some shots at a few local state representatives either.

Adirondack Council Executive Director Brian Houseal explained that although the highly influential organization didn’t approve of Governor David Paterson’s attempt to cap tax payments on state own land, he also got a few things right.

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

The council also blasts Paterson for taking \$50 million from the Environmental Protection Fund and using it towards general fund shortfalls.

The reports lauds the state Assembly and Senate for rejecting Paterson’s tax cap proposal, although the state Senate received a “thumbs down” for its near collapse last summer following the widely publicized coup.

The council overwhelmingly applauded the Adirondack Park Agency’s job over the last year, stating that APA Board Chairman Curt Stiles has made the agency more transparent and accessible.

It also enthusiastically approved of the three proposed APA legislative measures as well as the reclassification of Lows Lake and revised shoreline setback regulations.

But not everyone got such profound support.

The State of the Park rips local Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward for introducing three pieces legislation meant to open up some wild forests to timber harvesting, prevent the state from ceasing and closing some local roads and relaxing building density regulations for in-park campgrounds.

All three bills failed in committee.

ATV access is of particular interest to the Adirondack Council in the report.

The organization blasts the Lewis County Legislature for attempting to open several local roads to ATV access.

It also rips the nine in-park counties and 11 towns that have pledged \$3,000 each to support a lawsuit against the newly adopted APA shoreline setback regulations.

-Jon Alexander, 10-7-09