

Press Republican
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Ideal candidate

TO THE EDITOR: Your editorial opposing the nomination of Peter Hornbeck of Minerva to the Adirondack Park Agency Board of Commissioners was disappointing. You joined State Sen. Betty Little of Queensbury, in attacking the appointment of one of the Adirondack Park's most successful businessmen.

For nearly four decades, Hornbeck's boat-building operation has provided meaningful, full-time employment to local craftsmen, who build some of the finest canoes and kayaks in the world, at affordable prices. His Olmstedville boat-works is a source of pride to many Adirondackers.

Your editorial failed to mention that Hornbeck has local government experience, land-use planning experience, and the respect of his fellow townspeople. These qualities would seem to make him an ideal candidate for the park agency. He understands the unique economic problems as well as the great opportunities that the Adirondack Park offers.

You never mention that the Minerva town supervisor sent a letter to the chairman of the New York State Senate Environmental Conservation Committee, announcing that the town board had passed a resolution on Feb. 18 endorsing Hornbeck's nomination to the APA.

The letter stated: "The Peter Hornbeck we all know is an intelligent and thoughtful man. He is someone who works hard to balance the needs of the environment, the needs of the business community and the needs of his neighbors ... We believe he will represent the needs of Adirondack communities and businesses well. We urge you to confirm Peter Hornbeck to the Adirondack Park Agency."

Yet the senator's statements make Hornbeck seem like someone who can't be trusted. It is bad enough that Senator Little is smearing the good name of a man who has been a credit to his community and to the Adirondack Park. She is also urging others to attack his candidacy, while ignoring the wishes of the Town of Minerva.

John F. Sheehan

Albany