

January 23, 2019

VIA FACSIMILE ONLY TO (518) 897-1394

Mr. Robert Stegemann
Regional Director: Region 5, DEC
232 Golf Course Road
Warrensburg, New York 12885

Re: Planned DEC changes to NYS boat launch on Eagle Lake in Ticonderoga, New York

Dear Mr. Stegemann:

It was with very grave disappointment that I learned – *via Facebook*, no less – of the planned changes to the public boat launch owned by New York State at Eagle Lake. My husband and I have owned property on the lake since 2010 and spend all our summer weekends there with our son, who is 26 years old and severely developmentally disabled. Our property at 2079 State Route 74 is on the larger part of the lake, which is some distance from the public launch, and directly across from Charles Island.

The public safety risks have already been aptly expressed by the local fire chief, so I will not repeat them here except to say that my family and I agree with all his contentions.

My son's favorite activity is fishing, with my husband and I and sometimes one of our dogs, on our small bass boat on the lake. We launch this boat from the public launch as we do not have a launch on our property. If the plan as I understand it (and I note here that I have not received a single communication from DEC on this topic) proceeds, we will not be able to use our boat. My son cannot paddle effectively or for any meaningful length of time. He cannot fish from a canoe as balance is a problem for him. Fishing on this public lake will be effectively over for him and any other similarly disabled person.

I note also that there is a public and state-owned campground on the opposite end of the lake from the launch. Anyone wishing to camp or visit there would need to launch their cartop boat at the launch and paddle the entire length of the lake to the public campground. Again, this will preclude utilization by the disabled.

I assume that exclusion of disabled use of the lake was not the intent of this plan. I ask that you consider those who are not able to advocate for themselves and preserve the broadest possible access to what is inarguably one of the prettiest lakes in the Adirondacks.

January 23, 2019

Page 2

I further ask that copies of the plans for Eagle Lake be forwarded to me at your earliest convenience at my office address, which is in my letterhead. I will be glad to pay for the reasonable costs of copying if necessary. If the plans are electronically available, they may be sent to my email address, which is jharvey@couchwhite.com.

I thank you for your consideration. If you should have any questions or require further information, please let me know and I will be glad to provide it.

Very truly yours,

COUCH WHITE, LLP



Jennifer Kavney Harvey

JKH/bd

cc: Terry Martino, Executive Director (Via U.S. Mail)
NYS Adirondack Park Agency
P.O. Box 99
1133 NYS Route 86
Ray Brook, New York 12977

Karen Feldman (Via U.S. Mail)
Chair of the APA Board of Directors
NYS Adirondack Park Agency
P.O. Box 99
1133 NYS Route 86
Ray Brook, New York 12977

Keith Scherer (Via Facsimile to (518) 743-0336)
Senator Elizabeth O'C Little
5 Warren Street, Suite 3
Glens Falls, New York 12801

Joseph M. Giordano (Via Facsimile to (518) 585-3279)
Ticonderoga Supervisor
132 Montcalm Street
P.O. Box 471
Ticonderoga, New York

Chris Hyde (Via Email to cdhyde1@gmail.com)

S:\DATA\ATTY\JKH\Boat Launch\Stegemann 1-23-19.DOCX