

Lake Champlain Basin Program



Resolution In Recognition of the International Year of Forests 2011

Whereas, the United Nations General Assembly has recognized 2011 as the International Year of Forests; and

Whereas, the Lake Champlain Special Designation Act of 1990 and subsequent reauthorization in 2002 as the Daniel Patrick Moynihan Lake Champlain Basin Program Act established the Lake Champlain Basin Program creating a vision that all aspects of human and ecological life within the basin be maintained in harmony with each other; and

Whereas, the Lake Champlain Basin Program management plan *Opportunities for Action* identifies goals aimed at protecting and restoring the ecological and cultural resources of the Basin while maintaining a vital regional economy; and

Whereas, the Lake Champlain Basin covers 8,234 square miles spanning from the high peaks of the Adirondack Mountains in New York to the spine of the Green Mountain range in Vermont to the productive riverine valley in Quebec; and

Whereas, 66%, or 5,434 square miles, of the Lake Champlain Basin is forested being comprised of a rich and diverse mix of forest types that include deciduous, mixed, coniferous, and wetland forests occupying the full breadth of the basin from lowlands to upland mountains to the highest alpine areas; and

Whereas, the forested lands of the Lake Champlain Basin provide a natural home to thousands of plants and animals from common to rare and endangered species, reduce stormwater volumes and velocities, sequester carbon and store nutrients, and reduce soil losses; and

Whereas, the forested lands of the Lake Champlain Basin contribute to a sustainable economy through forest related industries, tourism, and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike; and

Whereas, the forested lands of the Lake Champlain Basin face modern-day threats from global climate change, atmospheric pollutant deposition, invasive species, and land use pressures; and

Whereas, the Lake Champlain Basin Program recognizes that resource protection and economic sustainability are interdependent and that a healthy forest system contributes to a vibrant and diverse environment, a robust economy, and improved quality of life; and

Whereas, the Lake Champlain Basin Program recognizes that going forward, there must be a shared responsibility of government, business, institutions, private groups, and individual citizens to protect the forest resources of the Basin;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, the Lake Champlain Basin Program, in recognition of the International Year of Forests 2011, celebrates the significance of the vast forested lands of the Basin and re-commits itself to improving the understanding of the many intricate interdependencies within forested landscapes, and fostering a strong collaboration among the partners and stakeholders to protect and enhance this resource for the mutual benefit of all.