Memorandum in Support

**Bill:** S4109-A by Senator Panepinto

A 3475-B by Assembly member Ryan

**Status:** 05/04/15 Advanced to Third Reading in Senate

04/27/15 Amended and recommitted to Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee

**Title:** An act to amend the executive law, in relation to adding the 18 Mile Creek to the definition of inland waterways

**The Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) Strongly Supports this Legislation.**

This bill would amend the executive law to include 18 Mile Creek in Erie County in the list of the New York State’s major creeks and for it to be considered and inland waterway.

Eighteen Mile Creek is an important part of Erie County. A healthy creek is important for maintaining ground water quality, biodiversity, and recreational opportunities. The creek is also important to the areas ecological health by providing habitat for resident and migratory species. With a vast majority of the creek’s drainage area overlying the Cattaraugus aquifer, 18 Mile Creek provides drinking water to local residents and ensures that high quality streams are delivered downstream throughout the watershed. The creek provides ample fishing and all-season recreational opportunities. Additionally, the creek is home to riparian and headwater forests which provide critical habitat for migratory songbirds and waterfowl as well as protect the quality of water at its source. The proposed reclassification would open 18 Mile Creek to more opportunities for waterfront revitalization and vital pollution cleanup funding.

ADK is comprised of 28,000 hikers, paddlers, skiers, backpackers and outdoor enthusiasts who rely on state parks for various recreational opportunities. ADK has a long history of defending the purity of New York State’s waters. This legislation would provide further protection and recreational opportunities for an important New York State waterway and therefore is strongly supported by ADK.

**The Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) Strongly Supports this Legislation.**