Memorandum in Support

**Bill:** S4824 by Senator Panepinto

A 478 by Assembly member Ryan

**Status:** 04/20/15 Referred to the Senate Committee on Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation.

01/07/15 Referred to the Assembly Committee on Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development

**Title:** An act to amend the parks, recreation and historic preservation law, in relation to defining boundaries of the Niagara River greenway

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

This legislation will assist the Niagara Greenway Commission in its duty to establish a park system along the Niagara River. The bill defines the boundaries of the greenway and disallows portions of the greenway plan that are at odds with this statue.

The Niagara Greenway Commission was established in order to ensure a linear park system would exist along the Niagara River. Unfortunately, there are still gaps to fill. The goal of the greenway project is to allow residents access to a clean, healthy waterfront, and to give visitors to Niagara Falls an opportunity to travel along a connective trail that will lead them all the way to Buffalo. The program for the Niagara River Greenway should fund projects that further the commission’s mission. However, it has become apparent that project standards have become lax over the years and money is being used to fund projects that are outside the original scope of the commission. This legislation will refocus the funding and ensure funding is used to further the goals of the Niagara Greenway Commission. Funding will be restricted to much needed water quality improvement, ecosystem function, and trail connections to create a linear public park system along the Niagara River

ADK is comprised of 28,000 hikers, paddlers, skiers, backpackers and outdoor enthusiasts who rely on state parks for various recreational opportunities. Our Niagara Frontier Chapter has been involved with the Niagara River Greenway for approximately a decade. This bill will help ensure that the hard work our members have dedicated to the greenway is enhanced by refocusing the Niagara Greenway Commission’s project funding directly within a spatially defined greenway.

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