Thank you Governor Cuomo, NYS APA and DEC, and thousands of wilderness advocates across the state.

The new Essex Chain Lakes Primitive and Hudson Gorge Wilderness Areas — more than 30,000 acres in all and more than 14 miles of the wild Upper Hudson River — reaffirm the Adirondack Park as a beacon of hope and a Wilderness for the World.

This Adirondack headwaters region has global significance.

Thank you, too, Adirondack Nature Conservancy, Open Space Institute, Finch, Pruyn Paper Co., and Paul Schaefer and his Hudson River Association allies for protecting these lands and its wild rivers. This is the legacy and opportunity we all inherit. Let us care for, manage, and enjoy this wilderness wisely not just for the next 50 years, but for several generations ahead, and more.

“A wild river is the life blood of the land … When I hear the thunder of a rapids or the soft music of some chuckling stream; when I see placid pools and the widening circles of a rising trout or hear the lonely song of a white throat at dusk, I am content and strongly fulfilled, for mine is the blood and the sinew of ancestral man, and within me are memories of forebears who for countless millennia watched and listened before me. Rivers were part of their lives. They were the highways. Here they hunted and fished, built shelters, and in the glow of campfires had visions and dreams.”

— Sigurd Olson, “What a River Means to Me”

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