

Requesting Adequate Funding And Staffing From The New York State Department Of Environmental Conservation For New York Wildlife Pathologist Ward Stone

The Environmental Committee (Chairman Shapiro and Legislators Bischoff, R.A. Parete, Rodriguez, Fabiano, Petit and Roberts) and Legislators Aiello, Briggs, Cahill, Cummings, Dart, Decker, Donaldson, Felicello, Gerentine, Gregorius, Hansut, Harris, Kraft, Lomita, Loughran, Maloney, Noonan, R.S. Parete, Provenzano, Roberti, Ronk, Sheeley, Stoeckeler, Terpening, Terrizzi and Zimet offer the following:

WHEREAS, Ulster County and all of New York State, are being faced with global warming, increased pollution, and international flights from third world and tropical countries, all of which are bringing more dangerous diseases and increasing the growth of hosts of these diseases, potentially weakening the immune systems of humans and wildlife, and

WHEREAS, diseases such as Lyme Disease, West Nile Disease, Bird Flu and countless others including Colony Collapse Disorder and the deaths of thousands of New York State bats threaten not only wildlife health but also human health and food production, and

WHEREAS, Ward Stone, as New York State Wildlife Pathologist, is responsible for researching why animals die, and tracing disease vectors and for helping to develop strategies for protecting humans and animals from increasingly dangerous diseases and pollutants, and

WHEREAS, diminished funding for staffing and research does not benefit the people of Ulster County and New York State in relation to Ward Stone's work, and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Committee has met and reviewed said request with a majority of the members voting approval, and

WHEREAS, the Laws and Rules Committee has met and reviewed said request with a majority of the members voting approval.

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature urges New York State DEC to recognize the service and commitment of New York State Wildlife Pathologist Ward Stone, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Ulster County Legislature urges the DEC to properly fund, support, and recognize the efforts of New York State Wildlife Pathologist Ward Stone and his efforts to protect the people of Ulster County and New York State, and

Resolution No. 300 September 10, 2008

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FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to President George W. Bush, Governor David Paterson, New York State Comptroller's Office, United States Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton and Charles Schumer, United States Congressman Maurice Hinchey, Senate Majority Leader Dean G. Skelos, Senate Minority Leader Malcolm Smith, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Majority Leader Ron Canestrari, Assembly Minority Leader James N. Tedisco, New York State Senators John J. Bonacic and William J. Larkin, Jr., New York State Assemblymen Kevin A. Cahill, Clifford W. Crouch, Peter Lopez and Thomas Kirwan, Pete Grannis, Willie Janeway, and Judith Enck, the National Association of Counties, and the New York State Association of Counties,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 30 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislators Aiello, Kraft and Stoeckeler)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE

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