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February 23, 2005

J.A. Brillig, Secretary
Public Service Commission
3 Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12223-1350

Re: Case 05-M-0090

Dear Ms. Billing:

As a former Commissioner of the Adirondack Park Agency, it has come to my attention that the Public Service Commission seeks public comment on a proposed extension of the System Benefits Charge which supports a number of environmental monitoring and research programs.

The Agency has applauded and continues to applaud the efforts of the Public Service Commission in enabling necessary and reliable funding for long-term monitoring of Adirondack lakes through the programs funded by the System Benefits Charge. Fifty-two Adirondack lakes are sampled monthly in the Adirondack Lakes Long-term Monitoring Program. Stream and fisheries data are also collected. The resulting data continues to be critically important in providing information to address the complex problems of acid precipitation and the pollution it causes to forests, lakes, and streams. Without Adirondack water quality monitoring the actual effect of changes in emissions from upwind "smoke stacks" could not be sufficiently tracked. This data provides the essential link to policy decisions affecting our irreplaceable Adirondack Park resources.

Furthermore, it is important that this funding source that has provided a consistent long-term data set to scientists, the public and policy makers be expected to continue into the future to guide all parties concerned with managing acid deposition.

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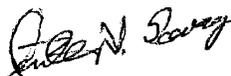
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J.A. Brillig, Secretary
February 23, 2005
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As an essential component of sound environment policy for the Adirondack Park, it is extremely important that support for long-term monitoring be continued.

Enclosed herewith, as your notice requested, are five copies of this letter for the members of the Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arthur V. Savage". The signature is written in a cursive style with some loops and flourishes.

ARTHUR V. SAVAGE

AVS:ri
Encls.