

**Petitioning The New York State Department Of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) To Make Permanent The Existing Alternative Deer Harvest Strategy Which Covering Wildlife Management Units 3C And 3J**

The Environmental Committee (Chairman Shapiro and Legislators Bischoff, R.A. Parete, Rodriguez, Fabiano, Petit and Roberts) offers the following:

WHEREAS, deer population in New York State are currently overabundant in many areas and hunting is the only effective tool for controlling deer numbers on a landscape scale, and

WHEREAS, hunter numbers are not expected to increase substantially to the high levels of the late 1980s, and

WHEREAS, impacts from deer populations, especially in areas of overabundance, affect a wide variety of human land uses, and some areas have substantially affected the ecological communities and biodiversity of our forest communities, and

WHEREAS, implementation of more current deer management techniques and harvest regimes could substantially increase deer hunter participation and satisfaction, and ultimately provide a better and more efficient tool to achieve the continuing levels of annual deer harvest needed for deer management, and

WHEREAS, there is growing interest among New York deer hunters to refine their role as deer herd managers and expand their hunting opportunities and satisfactions including the opportunity to pursue and take more mature bucks while keeping adult sex ratios in balance with deer herd health, and

WHEREAS, there is a successful three year pilot project for alternative deer harvest strategy that includes antler harvest restrictions of three point on one side to achieve greater levels of maturity among the buck segment of the deer population, concurrent with overall deer numbers that more closely balance the sex ratios in Wildlife Management Units 3C and 3J, and

RESOLVED, that Ulster County Legislature request the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to make permanent the existing Deer Harvest strategy which ended covering Wildlife Management Units 3C and 3J, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Ulster County Legislature requests the NYSDEC to expand program to cover the entire County, and

Resolution No. 96 March 12, 2008

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FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Eliot Spitzer, New York State Comptroller's Office, Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, 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, the New York State Association of Counties and the Conservation Council in Ilion, New York, and Peter Grannis, Commissioner of Department of Environmental Conservation,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

NONE

0307

**REFERRED BACK TO COMMITTEE**