

**BROOME COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (EMC) ADVISORY
RESOLUTION CALLING FOR SUPPORT OF THE CLEAN WATER PROTECTION AND
FLOOD PREVENTION ACT (A.7905/S.4480)
(Adopted EMC General Meeting, 6/03/04)**

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) regulates freshwater wetlands of 12.4 acres or more, or wetlands of unusual local significance, and

WHEREAS, freshwater wetlands are important for storm water control and flood prevention, and

WHEREAS, freshwater wetlands serve as recharge areas for groundwater, provide habitat for wildlife, and as natural open space antidotes to urban and suburban sprawl, and

WHEREAS, freshwater wetlands filter and purify surface water and are indispensable for the continued health of other water bodies, including those used for drinking, recreation, and as key components of a sustainable economy, and

WHEREAS, 159 acres of wetlands vanish in the U.S. every day, and

WHEREAS, the 2001 U.S. Supreme Court ruling, otherwise known as the SWANCC Decision (for the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County), potentially puts 20 million acres of isolated wetlands at risk by removing them from the jurisdiction of the federal Clean Water Act, and

WHEREAS, New York's wetlands are particularly vulnerable, as the state law is the weakest in the Northeast, and

WHEREAS, this bill - known as the Clean Water Protection and Flood Prevention Act - will put wetlands of one (1) acre or more under state regulatory authority regardless if they have been previously mapped by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, a measure that would make wetland protection more consistent statewide, since one (1) acre is currently the conservation threshold within the Adirondack Park, and be it

RESOLVED, that the Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC) supports the proposed legislation, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the EMC calls upon the Hon. Thomas W. Libous and his colleagues in the State Senate to sponsor and support the passage of the proposed legislation, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the EMC calls upon the Broome County Legislature and Executive to formally support the proposed legislation, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this advisory resolution be distributed to Senator Libous, Broome County Executive Jeffrey P. Kraham, Legislator Chris Burger and members of the Broome County Legislature.

SM/jm
6/03/04