



MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Expanded Stream Protection

A. 8349 – Ryan

S.5612A– Harckham

An ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to the protection of certain streams.

JUSTIFICATION

Streams and small water bodies located in the course of a stream with a classification of AA, A, or B, or with a classification of C with a standard of (T) or (TS) are collectively referred to as "protected streams," and are subject to the New York State DEC's stream protection provisions of the Protection of Waters regulations. However, class C waterways are not provided the same level of protections, despite the fact that they are often used for boating, fishing, and other recreational activities. Including class C waterways as "protected streams" will allow for their protection under state regulations. This classification will help prevent undesirable activities on class C streams that degrade water quality or threaten public health.

The Trump administration rescinded the 2015 Clean Water Rule and recently finalized a new rule that would significantly reduce federal protections of many small streams. To protect public health and the environment, it is critical that New York State work to protect all streams across the state.

CITIZENS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT SUPPORTS

A.8349/S.5612A – EXPANDED STREAM PROTECTION