

# Inter-County Association of Western New York

*Representing the Counties of Allegany, Cattaraugus, Cayuga, Chautauqua, Chemung, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tompkins, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates.*

## RESOLUTION NO. 2023-02-IC

### RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION OF PROPOSED NEW YORK STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT LAW CHANGES

**Sponsored By:** Wyoming County

**Moved By:** James Brick (Wyoming)

**Seconded By:** Carol Frattella (Steuben)

**WHEREAS,** Soil and Water Conservation Districts have existed for over 70 years in local communities and were established due to the local needs of every diverse geographical region with locally led leadership; and

**WHEREAS,** the members of the Inter-County Association of Western New York discussed the proposed changes to Soil & Water Conservations Districts Law, Article 2, §4-12 which governs established bylaws for every local soil and water conservation district (District) in New York State, that would have a negative impact on management of environmental issues, local land management consequences and impacts on County operations; and

**WHEREAS,** Soil and Water District's currently provide all counties in New York State with environmental services, including but not limited to climate resiliency, watershed monitoring, soil health protection, sediment and erosion control, nutrient reduction, stormwater management, forestry management, water quality improvement, education and technical training, invasive species mitigation, green infrastructure, best management implementation, technical assistance for private citizens, municipalities and the state. Soil and Water Conservation Districts strive to make our programs and services inclusive and open for everyone, while continuing to develop service-based programs and staff development; and

**WHEREAS,** Changing structure to District Boards would have a major impact on the ability to make decisions through informed partners on the very issues that Districts deal with every day; and

**WHEREAS,** The change in legislation would also give opportunity for local communities to abolish this entity that has provided opportunities to address needs on all land, both public and private, while also acting as a conduit for land management state aid to local communities; and

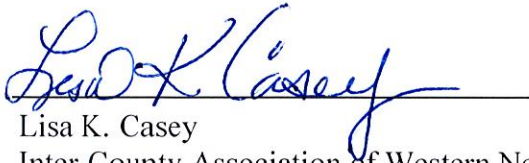
**WHEREAS,** Moving to watershed structured law changes would also impact other local initiatives that Wyoming County receives funding for through other sources and changes how planning would be done as watersheds extend past County/Municipal boundaries; now therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED,** That members of the Inter-County Association of Western New York strongly opposes proposed legislative actions for changes related to District Law, and asked the Association of Counties to also oppose the changes because of the long term economic and environmental resource impacts to small communities; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Secretary of Inter-County Association of Western New York shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, New York State Congressional Delegation, New York State Legislation in Western New York, Inter-County Association of Western New York and the New York State Association of Counties and all others deemed necessary and proper.

This is to Certify that I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Inter-County Association of Western New York, have compared the foregoing copy of resolution with the original resolution now on file in this office and which was duly adopted by the Association at a session held on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of February 2023 and that the same is a true copy of said original and of the whole thereof.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the official seal of the Inter-County Association of Western New York dated February 17, 2023.



Lisa K. Casey  
Inter-County Association of Western New York

Sponsored by: Wyoming County, Moved by: James Brick (*Wyoming*), Seconded by: Carol Ferratella (*Steuben*)

