

Inter-County Association of Western New York

% Steuben County Legislature, 3 East Pulteney Square, Bath, New York 14810

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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. 009-24

OPPOSING SENATE BILL S8461A, AN ACT TO AMEND THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW, IN RELATION TO ESTABLISHING THE “SPORTING RANGE GOOD NEIGHBOR ACT”.

WHEREAS, there is a Bill pending in the New York State Senate Committee on Consumer Affairs and Protection to amend the Environmental Conservation Law to establish the “Sporting Range Good Neighbor Act”, and

WHEREAS, this mis-named Act would require skeet field tracts at shooting ranges to be a minimum of 600 yards by 300 yards with the shooting semicircle located in the middle of the long side; and if unable to comply, the range would be required to construct an appropriate backstop, covered by a roof, to prevent lead migration outside of the designated skeet field tract; the skeet field cannot include a wetland or open water source, and

WHEREAS, this proposed legislation is both unnecessary and burdensome for the numerous fish and game clubs, who have, for decades, maintained outdoor shooting ranges as good stewards; there are over 3,600 registered athletes on more than 140 teams in the New York State High School Clay Target League who depend upon the ability to practice and hold competition events at these clubs; this proposed legislation may end up closing these clubs and closing these student leagues, and

WHEREAS, this Bill is based upon misinformation as to the trajectory of skeet shots, and the reason why most trap and skeet fields have been operating for decades without the need for this additional legislation; participants are shooting shotguns with small lead pellet loads which are only capable of traveling a maximum distance of 150-200 yards; in addition, most clubs reclaim the expended pellets for reuse; if club members do not do it themselves, there are companies who go to some clubs and sweep the fields to reclaim and sell the shot for reuse, and

WHEREAS, the common practice in sweeping and reclaiming the shot negates any thought that a club would design its shooting field with a stream or water source where the shot would fall, and

WHEREAS, this proposed restrictive law demonstrates, once again, the short-sightedness of those who support this unnecessary legislation and the adverse effects it will have upon small, rural communities in Upstate New York where most of these fish and game clubs have been operating for decades, without causing any danger or lead contamination to waterways, and

WHEREAS, this proposed legislation will cause severe hardship on the clubs, members and schools who depend upon the fish and game clubs for this very popular recreational sport in rural communities in Upstate New York with no empirical evidence that the mandates and restrictions are necessary.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the Inter-County Association of Western New York, representing 2.9 million citizens in the State of New York, hereby opposes Senate Bill S8461A which proposes an act to amend the Environmental Conservation Law, to establish the “Sporting Range Good Neighbor Act”; and be it further

RESOLVED, copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to Honorable Kathy Hochul, New York State Governor; all members of the New York State Senate; all members of the New York State Assembly and the New York State Association of Counties.

STATE OF NEW YORK)

ss.:

COUNTY OF STEUBEN)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of a resolution duly adopted by the Inter-County Association of Western New York while in session in Orleans County on the 21st day of June, 2024.

Dated: July 24, 2024
Bath, New York



Amanda L. Chapman, Secretary
Inter-County Association of Western New York