

Transcript of Ted Hullar's speech at the Saranac Lake public hearing, January 20, 1973

Ladies and gentlemen, my name is Ted Hullar. I'm from Buffalo New York, and I'm here to represent a statewide organization. It's called the Sie—

[interrupted by crowd noise]

My name is Ted Hullar. I'm from Buffalo New York. I'm here to represent a statewide organization. That organization is the Sierra Club.

[applause and booing]

I'm very pleased to be here because I think it's the responsibility of those of us who care statewide and those of us who care locally to address this most major and most fundamental questions that confront us in the area of how we use our land. Before getting to the text of my remarks, I'd like to tell you a little bit about what the Sierra Club is. It's been referred to several times today. I'd like to briefly describe it to you. I understand it has also been referred to in your local newspapers.

[laughter]

The Sierra Club is a national organization. However, the Sierra Club operates at the state level. We then band together into the national organization to deal with national issues such as the Everglades, such as the Grand Canyon, such as our great park lands in the West, such as the possibility of oil spills in the Eastern Seaboard, such as, "How we going to get our electricity?" At the state level were concerned with statewide questions. Without any doubt, the most significant statewide question for any state in this nation but particularly for us in New York State is the Adirondacks. Why is that so significant? Because the Adirondacks represents--the Adirondacks is---the finest treasure, finest natural resource treasure we have in this state and one of the very finest in the entire nation.

Members of the Sierra Club in New York State are residents of the Adirondacks. They are landowners in the Adirondacks and therefore they pay taxes here. Many Sierra Club members also use the Adirondacks. We stay in the motels, we stay in the hotels, we go to the recreational areas. Not just those off in the wilderness, but throughout the entirety of the park. So we use this land. Therefore we have a personal interest in it. In addition, however, and I think far more importantly, we're concerned about the Adirondacks because of its immense statewide implications. As I said, the Adirondacks, we believe, is the finest natural resource treasure this state has got. Therefore, we have to be concerned about it because the Sierra Club, nationwide, has been at the forefront of trying to preserve those pieces of land we love from the despoliation that so often has occurred.

It is a statewide issue: about 40% of the land within the Adirondack Park is state land. Moneys, tax money from outside the Adirondacks come back in in the form of tax rebates on the forest preserve land. That's true.

[many boos]