



ATLANTIC STATES LEGAL FOUNDATION, INC.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Atlantic States Legal Foundation Urges Voters to Vote “No” on Proposition 5

Voters will be looking at Proposition 5 on November 5th which would amend Article 14 of the State Constitution to allow NYCO Minerals, Inc. to mine wollastonite ore on a 200-acre parcel, Lot 8, of Adirondack Park Forest Preserve in the Lake Champlain Valley. Lot 8, which contains many “old growth” trees up to 105" in circumference, is estimated to only contain materials enough to mine for only 8 to 10 years.

Lot 8 is next to NYCO’s Lewis mine, due to run out of ore in about five years. NYCO wants to mine Lot 8 “now” because it will be “convenient” for them while they still have a large ore crusher and truck garage at the Lewis mine, before they move these assets to a second NYCO mine, Oak Hill, two miles away. Oak Hill has 25 years or more of mining left, so there will be no loss of jobs in any case if Prop 5 is not approved. The State will sell Lot 8 for 1500 acres of ordinary recently cut private forest land, instead of getting dollars. Wollastonite, a form of calcium silicate, is important but not strategic, and therefore expanding this mine in the Adirondacks is not of national importance.

Atlantic States Legal Foundation (ASLF), with the *Sierra Club*, *Protect the Adirondacks*, and *Adirondack Wild: Friends of the Forest Preserve*, urges a “No” vote on Prop 5. This proposal is completely inconsistent with Article 14 of the State Constitution, the “forever wild” provision, which says that Forest Preserve lands “... shall be forever kept as wild, forest lands. They shall not be leased, sold or exchanged or taken by any corporation public or private, nor shall the timber thereon be sold, removed or destroyed.”

Since 1894, when unanimous adoption of Article 14 slammed the door on abuses by the State of the Forest Preserve, such as selling it to lumbering companies, there have only been 22 amendments, all for a public purpose, never before exclusively to benefit a private company. With NYCO, the State has forgotten once again that, as steward of the Forest Preserve for the People of New York State, upholding the integrity of the Forever Wild provision comes first. Samuel Sage, President of ASLF, said "We should not play 'let’s make a deal' with the Forest Preserve lands or sell them for the convenience and financial benefit of a private company."

Atlantic States Legal Foundation is a Syracuse, NY- based environmental organization now in its 32nd year. Atlantic works across North America and the globe on a variety of issues related to protecting human health and the environment. For many years ASLF has been involved in mining issues as part of the national Citizen Mining Information Network, working with unions to protect the health and safety of workers at mines and refineries, using the federal courts to enforce laws against mine pollution, and helping citizens around the world prevent destruction of their lands from international mining interests. Contact Samuel Sage at 315.475.1170